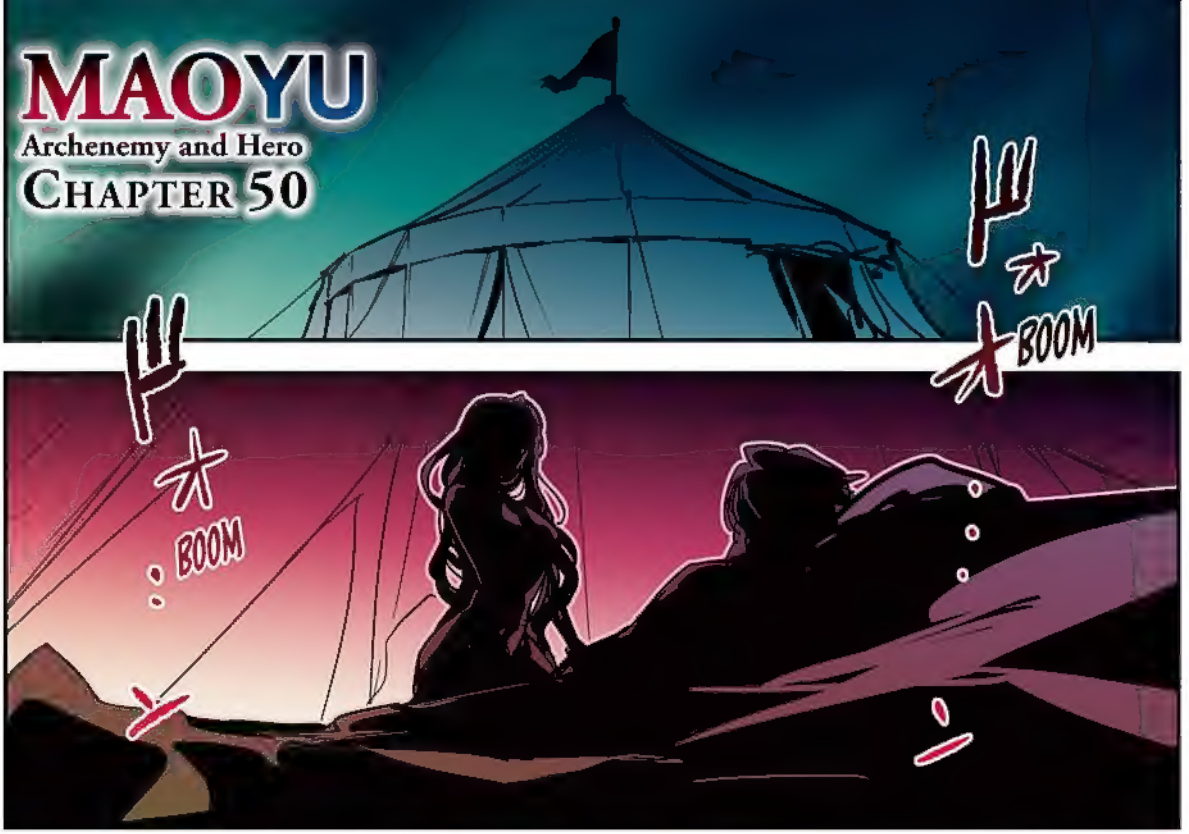
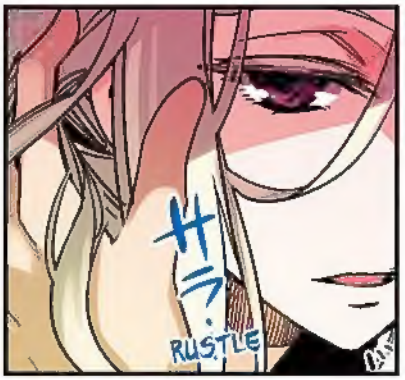
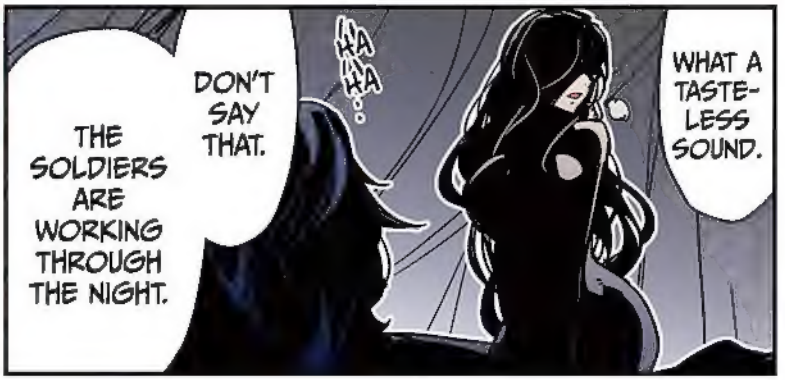
MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"
VOLUME 16
Art by
AKIRA ISHIDA
Original Work by
MAMARE TOUNO
Character Design by KEINOJOU MIZUTAMA and toi8


MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 50
BOOM
BOOM


RUSTLE


WHAT A TASTE-LESS SOUND.
HA HA...
DON'T SAY THAT.
THE SOLDIERS ARE WORKING THROUGH THE NIGHT.

IT'S JUST...
...THIS HAIR SLIPPING THROUGH MY FINGERS IS BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTH-ING.

I LOVE YOU...

...BLUE ASH KING.

THIS ENTIRE BODY...

...IS AN OFFER-ING TO YOU.

THESE BREASTS.

THESE LIPS.

NOT JUST THIS HAIR.

Art by AKIRA ISHIDA

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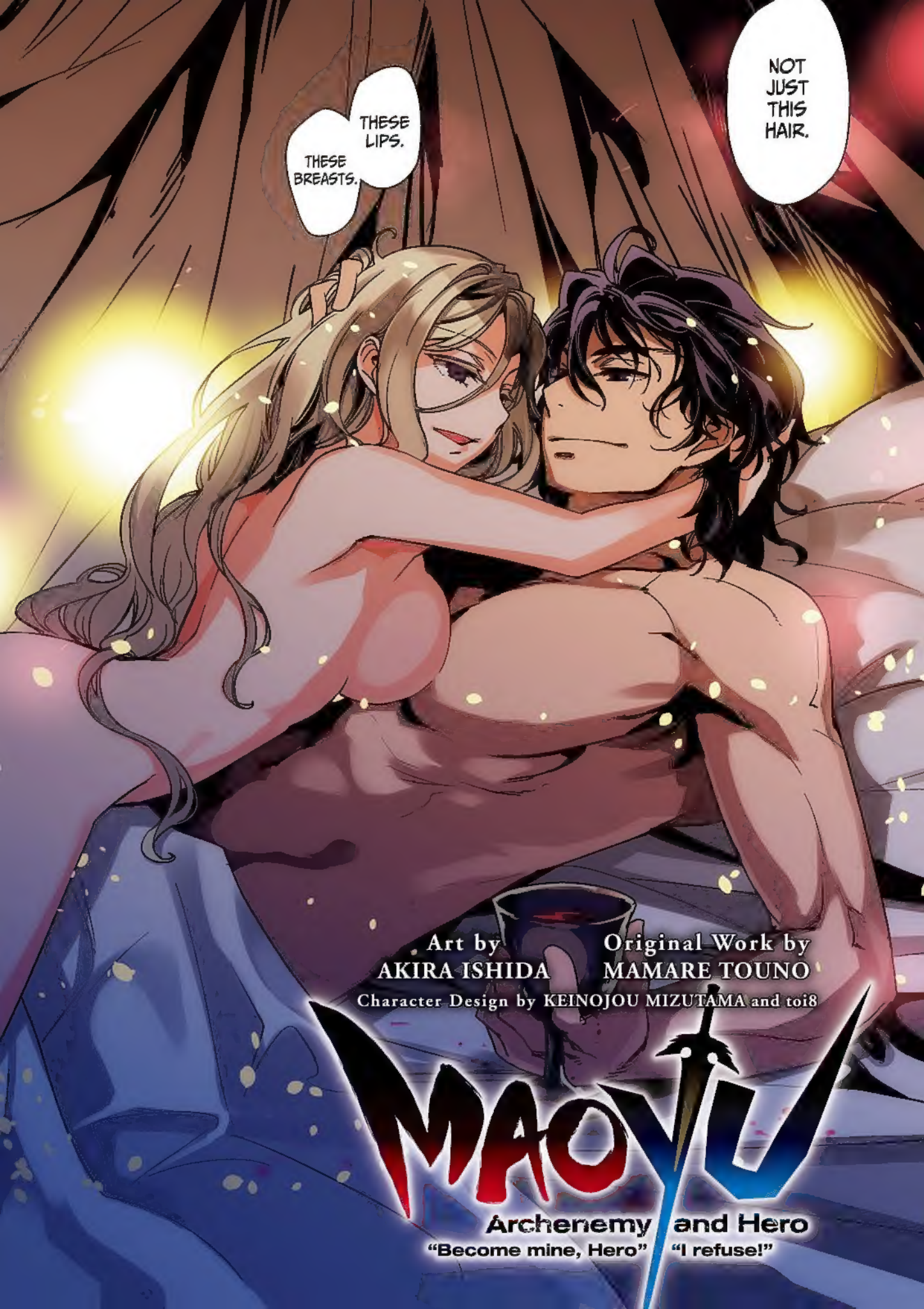
MAOYU Archenemy and Hero

"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"

Archenemy and Hero CHAPTER 50

There is Only One Answer: Peace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"Become mine, Hero"
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Archenemy and Hero **CHAPTER 50**

There is Only One Answer: Peace

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VOLUME 16

Art by **AKIRA ISHIDA**

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CHAPTER 50 Archenemy and Hero 001

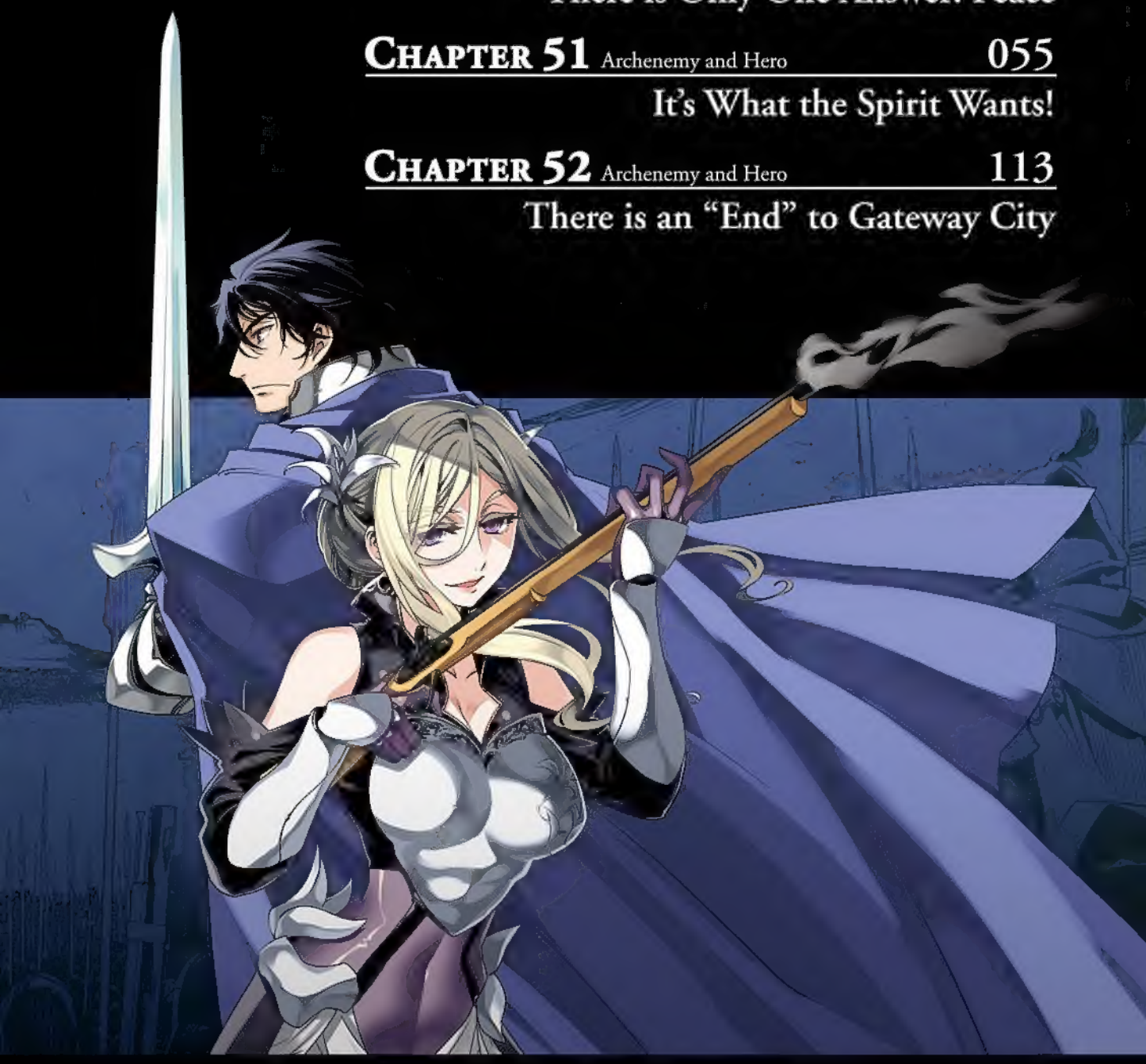
There is Only One Answer: Peace

CHAPTER 51 Archenemy and Hero 055

It's What the Spirit Wants!

CHAPTER 52 Archenemy and Hero 113

There is an "End" to Gateway City



MAOYU

Archenemy and Hero

"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"

Volume 16

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COLUMN PAGE
Daisuke Takenouchi (Recca-sha)
Masataka Nomura

Lectures on Archenemy and Hero
Outline of volume.15

In this way, the efforts the Demon Queen and Hero began are starting to bear fruit, and the world is changing more or less according to what the Demon Queen anticipated. However, the muskets the Demon Queen had secretly developed leaks during this process. The technology leads to new military organization and the invention of a new weapon, the cannon, in the Holy Kingdom. Equipped to mass-produce muskets, the Holy Kingdom utilizes the musket's property that allows the training of soldiers in a short amount of time to mobilize serfs as soldiers. By the orders of the Archbishop, head of the Church of Holy Light, a massive force an unprecedented 300,000 strong known as the Third Holy Key Expeditionary Force is raised. This force mobilized to acquire the Holy Relic begins its invasion of the Spirit World at the Battle of the Squill Fields. A contingent of 50,000 is dispatched to secure supplies, and the remaining forces begin attacking Gateway City, a place where demons and humans coexist. The 60,000 soldiers of the demon army take the field, and their numbers are cut in half. Under the command of the Demon Queen, who has returned from the Human World, the city begins a siege, making use of its powerful walls. Meanwhile, the 50,000 soldiers of the Southern Confederation's army arrive in the Spirit World. The company led by the Female Knight meets up with the mobile forces of the demon army, and together they begin destroying Expeditionary Force supply sites. The detached force led by the Royal Prince Marshal also fails to secure a supply base when they are stopped by the Older Maid Sister and the Hero. With no new supplies, the Expeditionary Force begins to struggle with its dwindling resources, but Gateway City is running low on supplies as well...

It has been three years since the dramatic meeting of the Demon Queen and Hero. Thanks to the technology and knowledge introduced by the Demon Queen as the Crimson Scholar, the lives of the people first in the Winter Kingdom and then throughout the rest of the south have improved considerably. The strengthened Winter Kingdom, Iron Kingdom, and Ice Kingdom establish their independence from the Holy Kingdom and Central Church of Holy Light dominating the continent, and later form the Southern Confederation with five nations located on the east end of the continent and seven sovereign cities.

Meanwhile, in the Spirit World, an assassination attempt on the Demon Queen's life at the major demon conference known as the Kurultai strengthens the bonds between the chiefs of the most powerful clans. At the Demon Queen's suggestion, a Demon Council entrusted with the authority of the Demon Queen is formed, and their handling of the Blue Demons that invaded the surface and maintenance of freshly opened roads forms a cooperative relationship between the demon clans. Later, through the Hero's mediation, the Fairy Queen visits the Winter Kingdom, and as the representative of the Spirit World, she meets with the Lonely Winter King and his allies who form the core of the Southern Confederation. They sign a ceasefire agreement between humans and demons and take a large step toward an eventual peace treaty.

SUMMARY OF MAOYU VOLUME 15

Lectures on Archenemy and Hero
Outline of volume.15

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THE HERO

A young man working alongside the Demon Queen. After learning the true nature of the Demon Queen and Hero from the Female Magician, he acts to avoid the future of destruction he has discovered.

THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL

Younger brother of the Holy Kingdom's king. The continent's greatest hero commands the Third Holy Key Expeditionary Force.

THE LILY KNIGHT CAPTAIN

Captain of the Lily Knights who serve the Archbishop. She pledges her loyalty to the teachings of the Church of Holy Light and the Archbishop.

THE BLUE ASH KING

Young hero of the Central Continent and king of the Mist Kingdom. He commands the front lines of the Holy Key Expeditionary Force.

THE YOUNG MUSICIAN

A Forest Song Clan girl educated by the Crimson Scholar. She has concealed her identity and infiltrated the Holy Key Expeditionary Force.

THE ARCHBISHOP

Leader of the Church of Holy Light that worships the spirit of light. He incited the Third Holy Key Expeditionary Force in search of the Holy Relic.

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An Ogre Call boy educated by the Crimson Scholar. He built sturdy walls for Gateway City.

THE FAIRY QUEEN

Chief of the Fairy Clan.

THE STEEL GENERAL

Chief of the Mechanical Clan

THE GIANT COUNT

Chief of the Giant Clan.

DUKE SILVER TIGER

Chief of the Fanged Demon Clan.

THE SEAL KING OF THE BLUE DEMONS

Chief of the Blue Demon Clan

THE OGRE CALL PRIESTESS

Chief of the Ogre Call Clan

THE PATTERNED CHIEF

Chief of the Humanoid Demon Clan.

ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON

Chief of the Dragon Clan

THE DEMON QUEEN

Using the knowledge she gained from the Outer Library, the queen of demons seeks to reform the world. For the futures of both demon and humankind, she is currently working to protect Gateway City.

THE CHIEF MAID

The Demon Queen's close adviser. She desires happiness for the Demon Queen and works to make the Demon Queen's dream come true.

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A girl who previously worked in the Demon Queen's mansion Of her own volition, she has chosen to act independently with a mercenary company

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One of the Hero's former traveling companions Acting independently, she uses her knowledge to assist the Hero.

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The Older Maid Sister's younger sister. Her gluttony opens her eyes to the world of cooking. She is currently training in the Iron Kingdom.

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King of the Winter Kingdom. After breaking away from the Central Kingdoms, he established the Southern Confederation with other nations supporting his cause.

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Leader of the Merchant's Alliance, the Human World's largest economic organization. He takes advantage of the changing situation to enact economic reform.

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Daughter of Archduke Fire Dragon. As the demonic representative of Gateway City, she is currently working hard to defend the city.

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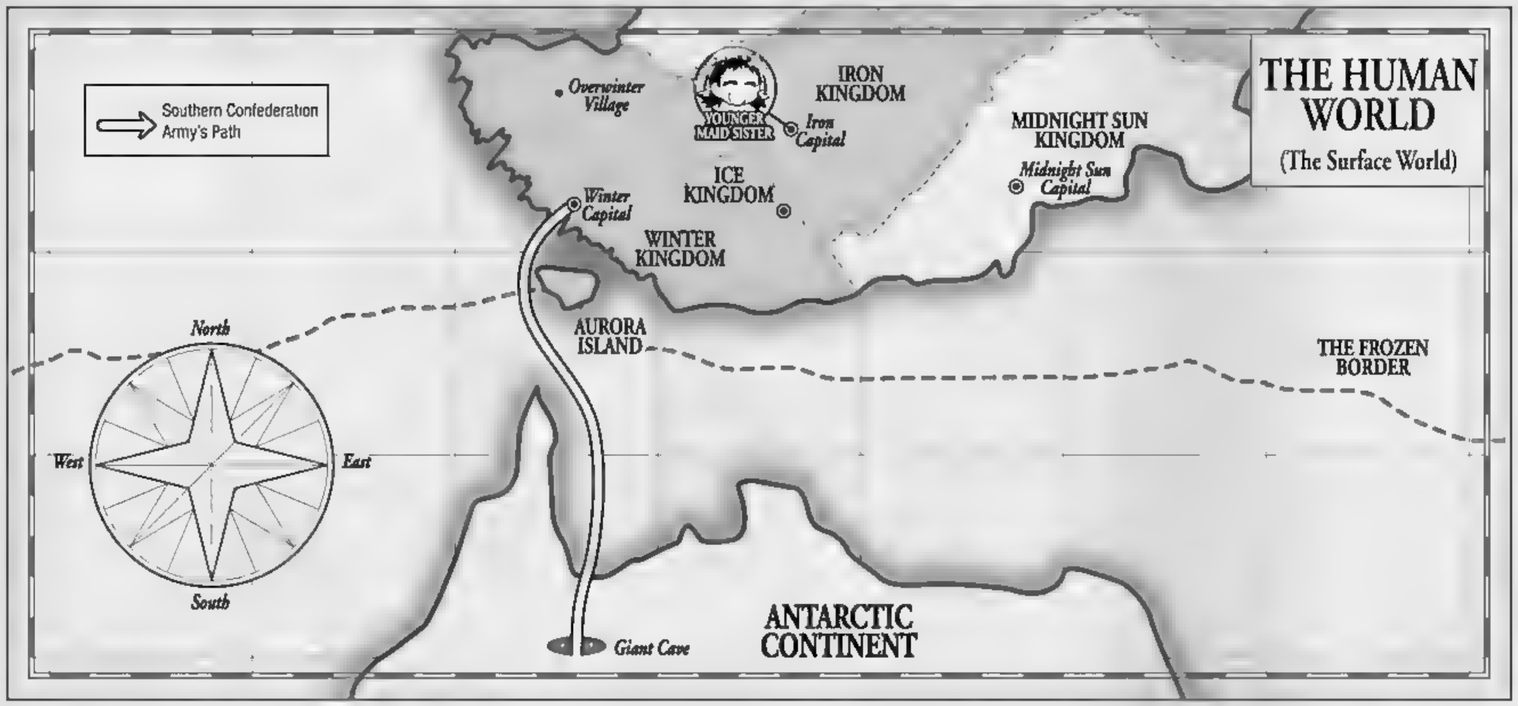

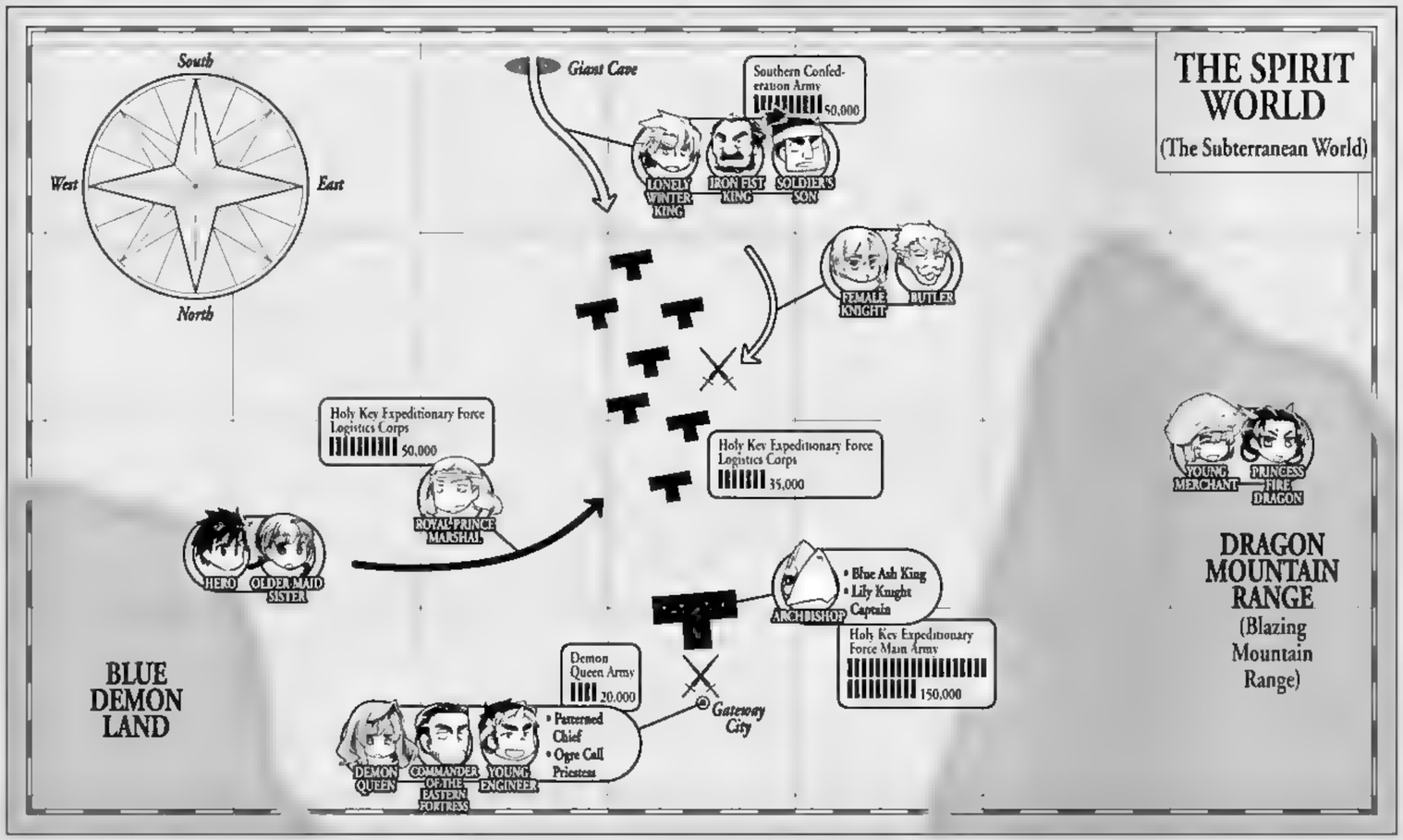

LOCATION OF THE CHARACTERS

LONELY WINTER KING · IRON FIST KING · SOLDIER'S SON

Having received the decision of the Southern Confederation summit conference, the Southern Confederation's army finished preparing themselves and left for the Antarctic Continent. They entered the Spirit World through the Giant Cave, and currently they are marching for Gateway City.

HERO · OLDER MAID SISTER

The Older Maid Sister receives ownership of the Blue Demon lands from the Mechanical Demons. She confronts the Royal Prince Marshal when he comes to secure a supply base, and with the help of the Hero she successfully forces him to withdraw.

ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL

Learning the rear of the Expeditionary Force is being threatened, he is heading toward Gateway City to meet up with the logistics corps transporting supplies.

ARCHBISHOP • BLUE ASH KING • LILY KNIGHT CAPTAIN

The Blue Ash King commands the attacking army in its continued attack on Gateway City. The Lily Knight Captain assists the Blue Ash King, serves the Archbishop, and holds meetings for the faithful

FEMALE KNIGHT · BUTLER

With the rifles invented by the Demon Queen, the Female Knight entered the Spirit World with a company of convent knights. With the Butler, they are attacking the logistics corps and supply bases of the Expeditionary Force one after another. They have met up with the Aide of the Commander of the Eastern Fortress who leads the remnants of the Fanged Demons

DEMON QUEEN · COMMANDER OF THE EASTERN FORTRESS · YOUNG ENGINEER • PATTERNED CHIEF • OGRE CALL PRIESTESS

The Demon Queen has taken command of the city, and the citizens unite to defend the city.

YOUNG MERCHANT · PRINCESS FIRE DRAGON

Princess Fire Dragon drags the Young Merchant from the Lake Kingdom to the Blazing Mountain Range She asks Archduke Fire Dragon to exercise his authority as chairman of the council and hold a Kurultai.

FEMALE MAGICIAN · CHIEF MAID

With an almost excessive amount of magic in store, the Female Magician and Chief Maid are preparing for something at a tower located somewhere in the Spirit World.

THE SITUATION SURROUNDING GATEWAY CITY

The Demon army gathered in Gateway City attacked the approaching Third Holy Key Expeditionary Force, but they suffered tremendous damage in the face of the Expeditionary Force's great numbers of muskets and cannons. Currently the city is under siege, but it has nearly run out of the materials it needs to repair its walls. Meanwhile, the Expeditionary Force fires on the city's walls day in and day out in order to bring them down, but they are unable to destroy the new model of walls, and the army is running out of gun powder. As the battle at Gateway City approaches a standstill, the Female Knight and Butler attack the supply bases and logistics corps in the rear of the Expeditionary Force. The Southern Confederation army that arrived after them is marching toward Gateway City. The Royal Prince Marshal who headed for Blue Demon lands failed to secure food supplies. With the meager supplies he was able to acquire, he begins heading back toward Gateway City, but now the Expeditionary Force's lack of supplies will prove decisive. Meanwhile, Princess Fire Dragon goes to the Blazing Mountain Range with the Young Merchant. She asks Archduke Fire Dragon to hold a Kurultai.

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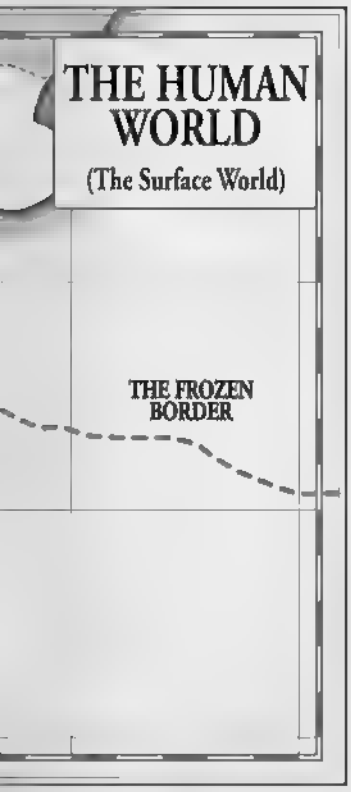

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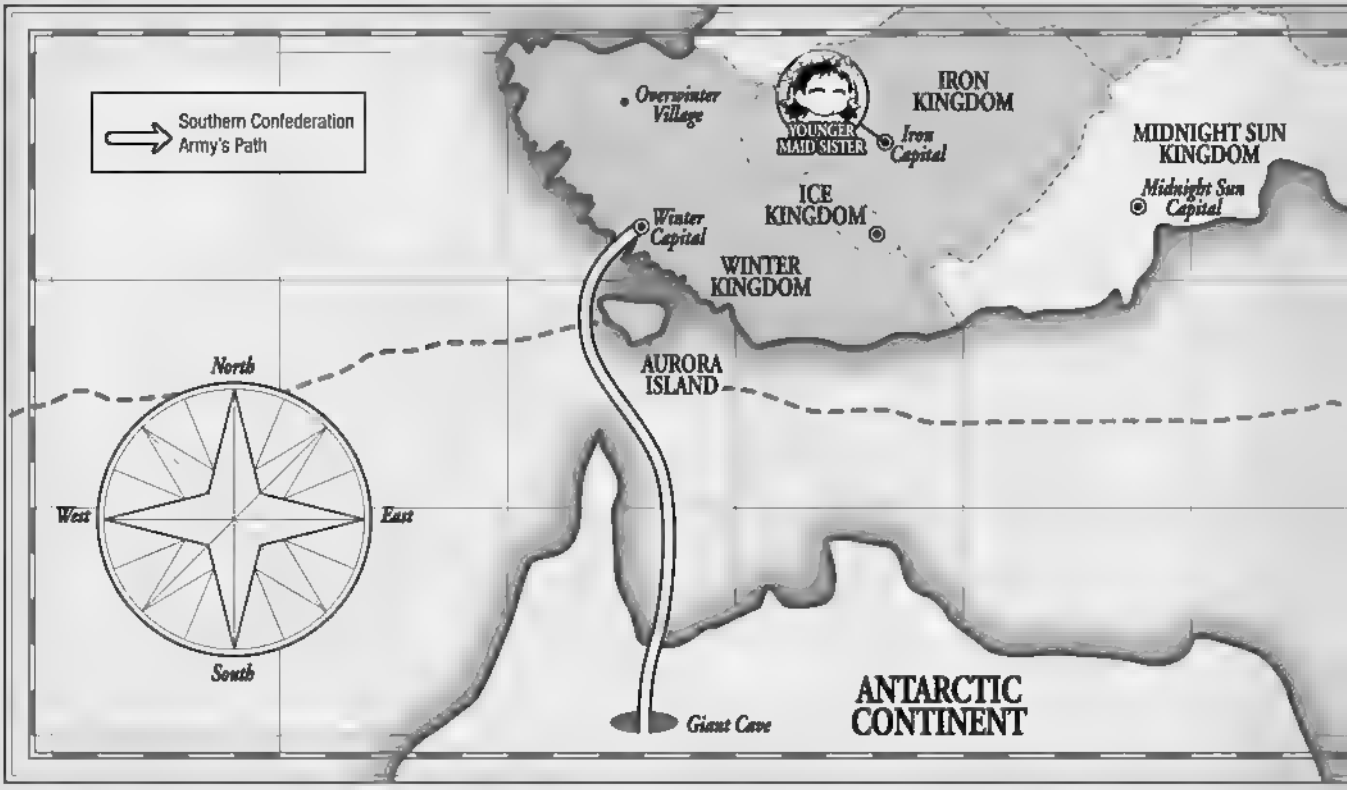
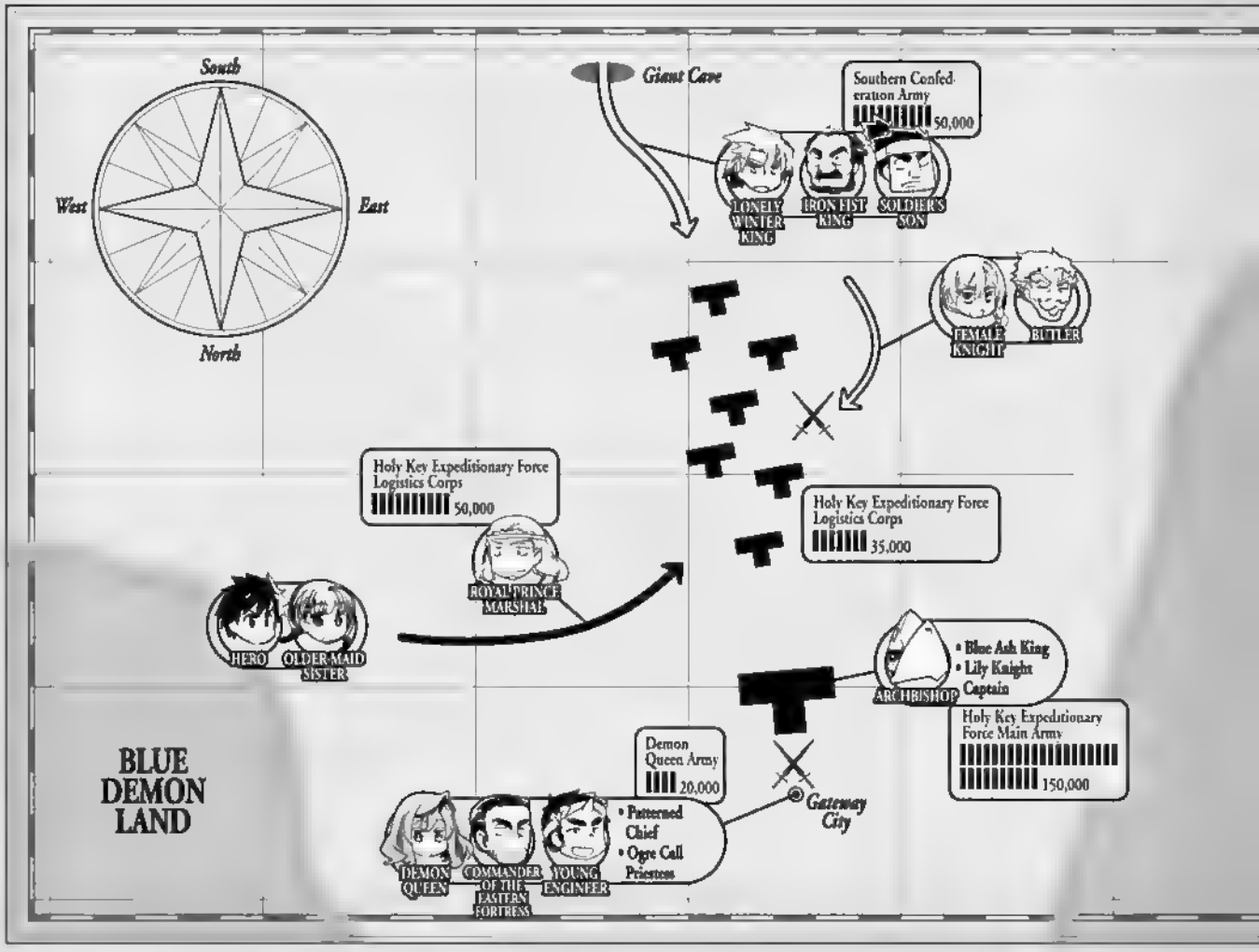

Southern Confederation Army's Path
Overwinter Village
YOUNGER MAID SISTER
Iron Capital
IRON KINGDOM
MIDNIGHT SUN KINGDOM
Midnight Sun Capital
ICE KINGDOM
Winter Capital
WINTER KINGDOM
AURORA ISLAND
North
West
East
South
Giant Cave
ANTARCTIC CONTINENT


South
West
East
North
Giant Cave
Southern Confederation Army
50,000
LONELY WINTER KING
IRON FIST KING
SOLDIER'S SON
FEMALE KNIGHT
BUTLER
Holy Key Expeditionary Force Logistics Corps
50,000
ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL
Holy Key Expeditionary Force Logistics Corps
35,000
HERO
OLDER MAID SISTER
ARCHBISHOP
• Blue Ash King
• Lily Knight Captain
Holy Key Expeditionary Force Main Army
150,000
BLUE DEMON LAND
Demon Queen Army
20,000
• Patterned Chief
• Ogre Call Priestess
Gateway City
DEMON QUEEN
COMMANDER OF THE EASTERN FORTRESS
YOUNG ENGINEER

THIS MUST BE A FARCE.
BUT I'VE GIVEN YOU EVERY-THING.
YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME?
I WOULDN'T BE ROYALTY IF I BELIEVED THE HONEYED WORDS OF WOMEN.
BUT...
...A REAL MAN ACCEPTS THE WILLFULNESS OF WOMEN.

I'LL DRINK THIS CUP OF POISON YOU'RE POURING.

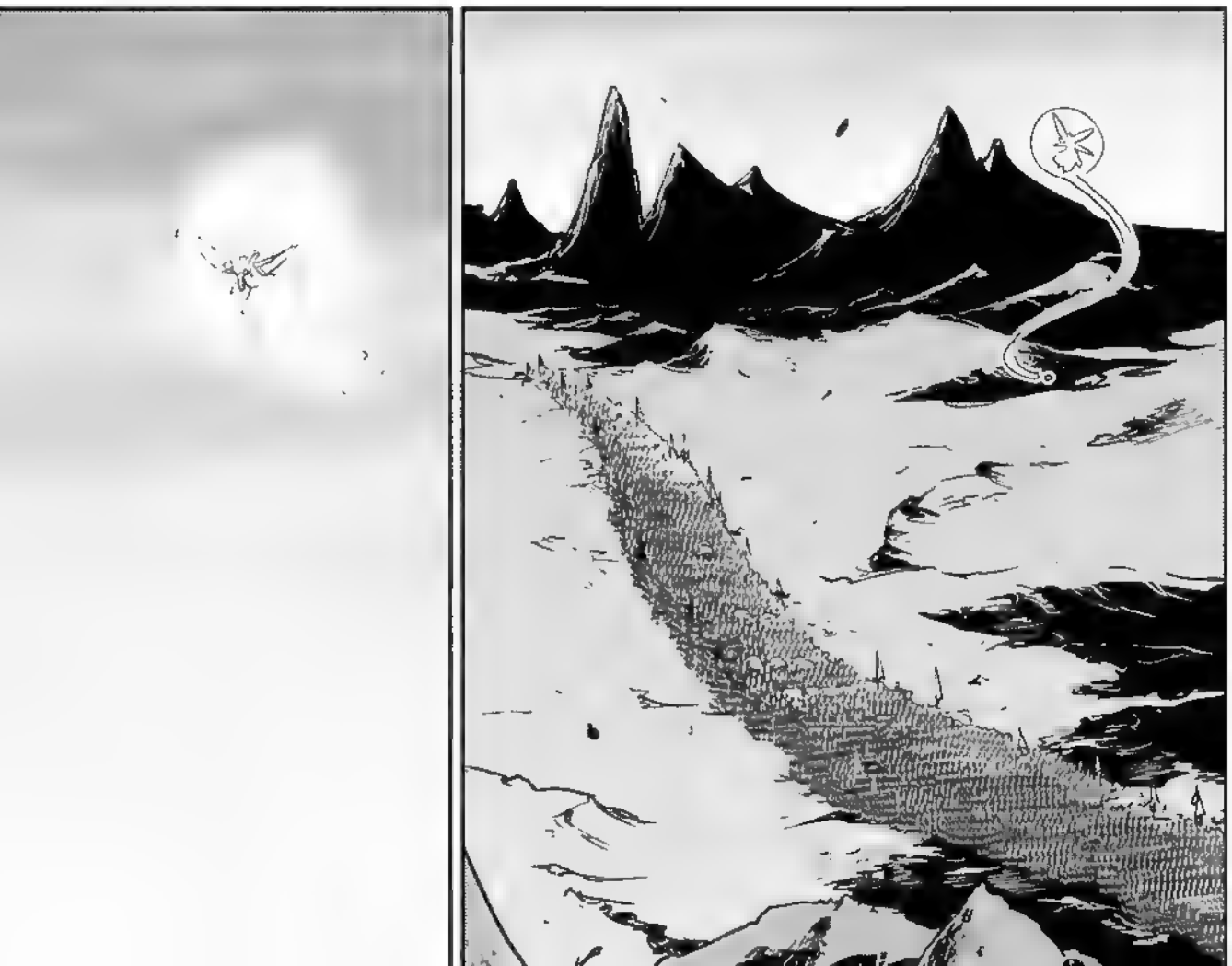
DAWN IS STILL FAR OFF.
HA...
AH
AGAIN?
REAL-LY?

I WILL SERVE YOU UNTIL YOU ARE SATIS-FIED.
AGAIN ...
...AND AGAIN.
VERY WELL.

WHERE IS THAT MUSIC COMING FROM?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE...
... CHURCH HYMNS.
.... I HATE THIS SONG.
MUTTER

ISN'T THIS A HYMN?
POET, YOU KNOW THE SPIRIT'S SONGS TOO?
ISN'T IT A BEAUTIFUL SONG?
I LEARNED IT AT THE HOLY KINGDOM'S CHURCH, AND I LOVE IT.
IT'S A GENTLE SONG ABOUT OFFERING THANKS TO THE SPIRIT OF LIGHT FOR SPRING.
IT'S CHEERFUL...
...AND SWEET.
I LOVE IT.
IN MY HOMETOWN, WE DANCED TO THIS SONG AT THE SPRING FESTIVAL.
YEAH.
I CAN SEE THEM DANCING NOW.
...I WANT TO GO HOME.

I MAY BE A DEMON, BUT THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF DEMONS.
POET, YOU'RE NOT SCARY EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A DEMON.
I'M A FAIRY.
WE'RE A FRAGILE RACE UNFIT FOR WAR.



THERE'S A SUSPICIOUS LOOKING UNIT...
...LOOKING THIS WAY!
I'M BACK.
GOOD WORK.
YOU'RE ASKING THE FAIRY TO SCOUT FOR YOU?
THEY WERE PROBABLY TRAINED BY THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL.
THEY MUST BE A RECONNAISSANCE TROOP.
YES! SIR!
...END UP CROSSING BLADES WITH THE 50,000 SOLDIERS OF THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL'S ARMY.
WE WILL PROBABLY...
THEY CAN ALSO CONCEAL THEIR PRESENCE, MAKING THEM EXCEPTIONAL SCOUTS.
-- HAVE NIGHT VISION THAT ALLOWS THEM TO SEE CLEARLY BY JUST THE MOONLIGHT.
FAIRIES -- ESPECIALLY THE SMALL WINGED FAIRIES --

AND IN CONTRAST, OUR SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION ARMY HAS A TOTAL OF 50,000 SOLDIERS.
OUR NUMBERS MAY BE EQUAL, BUT IF WE FIGHT THEM NORMALLY, OUR LOSS IS INEVITABLE.
THEY'RE LIKELY AS STRONG AS A STANDARD NOBLE ARMY OF 100,000 SOLDIERS.
...BUT THEY'RE THE 50,000 SOLDIERS WITH THE HIGHEST MORALE AND BEST TRAINING IN THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
NOT ONLY ARE THEY EQUIPPED WITH MUSKETS...
BY CHANGING OUR MARCHING FORMATION AND FREQUENTLY SWAPPING OUT UNITS...
...WE CAN ACCELERATE AND DECELERATE OUR PACE TO CONCEAL OUR NUMBERS FROM THE ENEMY.
YES.
TO HIDE OUR NUMBERS DISADVANTAGE.
SO THE REASON WE'VE BEEN CHANGING HOW WE MARCH SO MUCH IS...
THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION ARMY IS MADE UP OF 50,000 OF OUR BEST SOLDIERS...
...BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THE OVER 200,000 OF THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
TAKING ON THE 50,000 MEN LED BY THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL WOULD BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH.
AT THE VERY LEAST, UNLESS WE HAVE THE INITIATIVE, WE CAN'T ATTACK THEM.

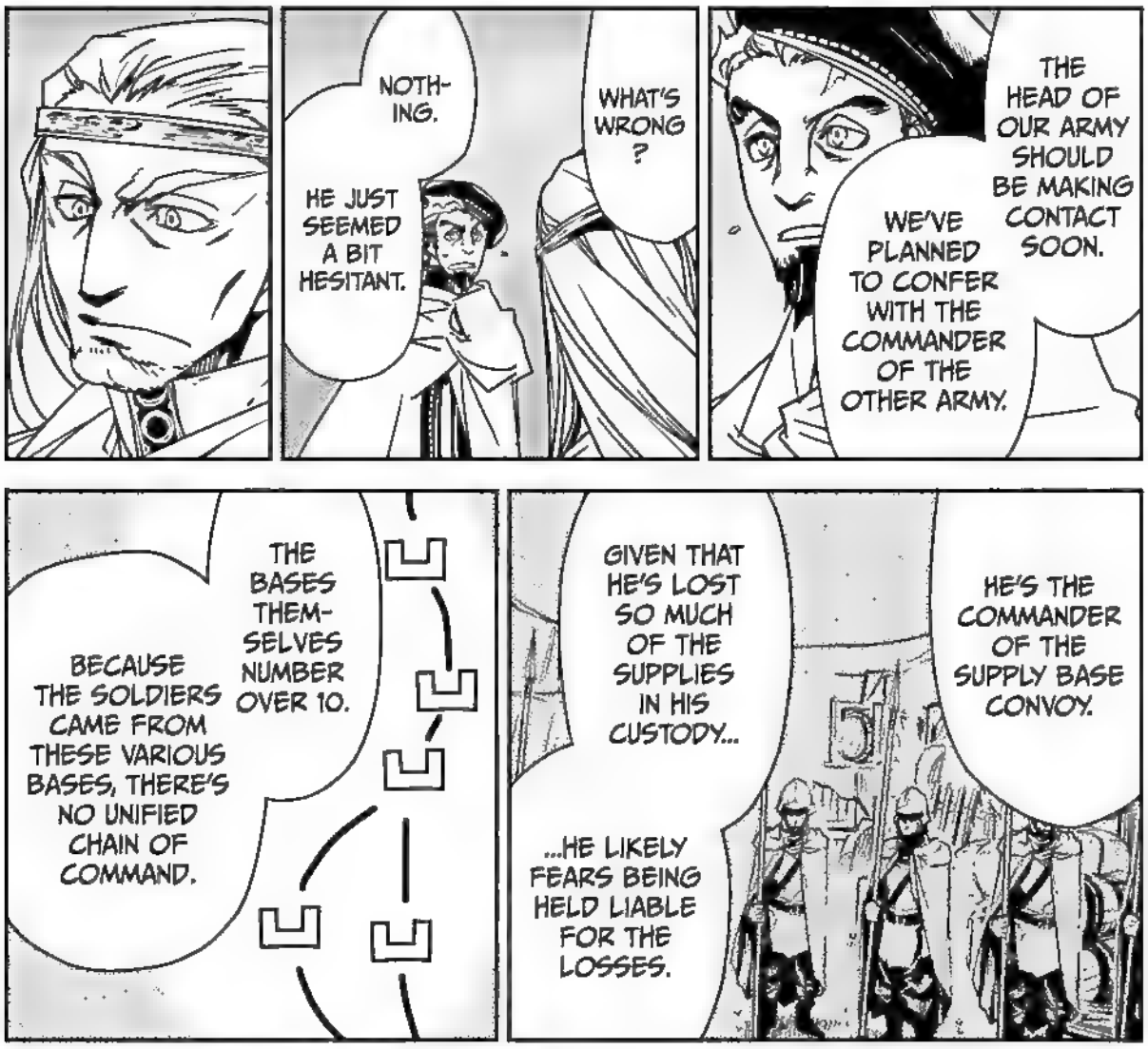
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL.
...WHY?
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BEAT THEM?
THAT'S BECAUSE THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL ...
...IS ONE OF THE COMMANDERS OF THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
RUSTLE
THIS EXPEDITION WASN'T DISPATCHED TO TAKE DOWN THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD.
THE CENTRAL KINGDOMS.
AND US, THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION.
OUR GOAL IS TO FIND A POLITICAL RESOLUTION THAT WILL PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF THESE THREE.
AMIDST THE CURRENT MOVEMENTS IN THE WORLD, IF WE WERE TO TRY TO STOP A HOSTILE POWER BY FORCE, IT WOULD DEFINITELY COME BACK TO BITE US.
FOR THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION TO SURVIVE, WE NEED TO REACH SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT...
...AND HAVE THE THREE SIDES PUT DOWN THEIR SWORDS.

WITHOUT ANYTHING TO OFFER THEM...
...THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL SAY, "SURE, WE UNDERSTAND," AND PACK UP AND LEAVE.
THEY SENT A MASSIVE ARMY.
THEY SPENT MONEY.
THEY'VE PUSHED HARD.
HOW-EVER...
YES, "HOW-EVER."
EITHER THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL'S ARMY WILL TURN AROUND AND WE'LL FIGHT THEM...
IT WILL GO ONE OF TWO WAYS.
SO AT THE VERY LEAST, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT THEM ONCE.
...BUT I FEEL WE NEED TO CROSS BLADES WITH THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL ONCE BEFORE THEN.
ULTIMATELY I'M EXPECT-ING THE LATTER...
...TAKE UP A DEFENSIVE POSITION, AND WE'LL HAVE A STANDOFF.
...OR THEY'LL JOIN UP WITH THE MAIN FORCE...

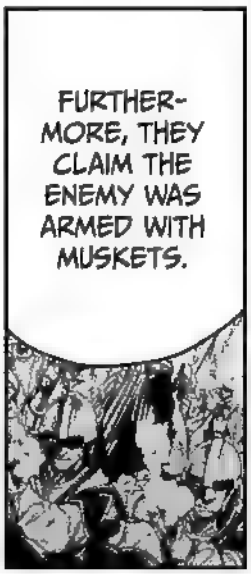
I KNOW MY MASTER IS NEARBY.
WE NEED TO TAKE THAT INTO CONSID-ERATION.
IN THIS BATTLE, THE RATE AT WHICH WE'RE ABLE TO ESTABLISH OUR POSITION WILL DETERMINE WHO SURVIVES...
...AND I'VE PREPARED ACCORD-INGLY.

WINGED FAIRY.
KEEP SCOUTING THE AREA.
GOT IT!

THE LOGISTICS CORPS SHOULD BE COMING INTO SIGHT SOON.
IT SEEMS WE'LL BE ABLE TO JOIN THEM WITHOUT ANY INCIDENT.
...I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.


NOTH-
ING.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HE JUST SEEMED A BIT HESITANT.
THE HEAD OF OUR ARMY SHOULD BE MAKING CONTACT SOON.
WE'VE PLANNED TO CONFER WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE OTHER ARMY.
THE BASES THEM-SELVES NUMBER OVER 10.
BECAUSE THE SOLDIERS CAME FROM THESE VARIOUS BASES, THERE'S NO UNIFIED CHAIN OF COMMAND.
GIVEN THAT HE'S LOST SO MUCH OF THE SUPPLIES IN HIS CUSTODY...
...HE LIKELY FEARS BEING HELD LIABLE FOR THE LOSSES.
HE'S THE COMMANDER OF THE SUPPLY BASE CONVOY.
NO.
THEY SAY THEY WERE DEFEATED BY A MIXED UNIT OF HUMANS AND DEMONS.
A MIXED UNIT?
EACH LOCA-TION WAS GUARDED BY 2,000 MEN.
THEY DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE 50,000 OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERA-TION ARMY.
IT WOULD BE ONLY NATURAL TO PUNISH HIM.
BUT...
...WE CANNOT PUT ALL THE BLAME ON HIM.

MOST LIKELY.
SO THEY'RE USING STOLEN WEAPONS.
MUS-KETS?

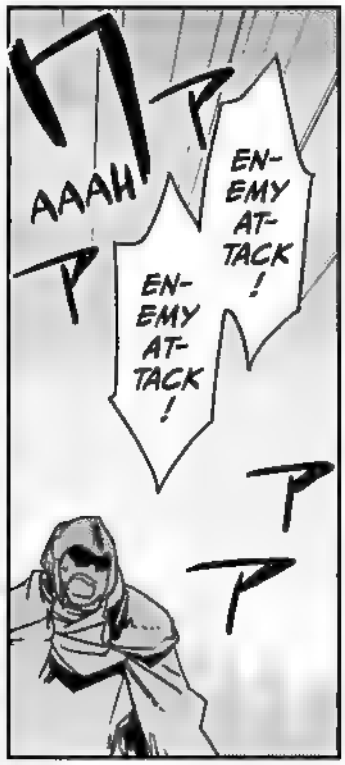

FURTHER-MORE, THEY CLAIM THE ENEMY WAS ARMED WITH MUSKETS.

THERE ARE REPORTS CLAIMING THEY SAW THE CREST OF THE LAKESIDE KNIGHTS...
...BUT MOST OF THE FOOT SOLDIERS WERE DEMONS.

?!

AAAH
WE'LL LEARN MORE WHEN WE HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY ONCE OUR FORCES MEET UP...

RUMBLE


AAAH
EN-EMY AT-TACK!
EN-EMY AT-TACK!

YAAAH
THEY'RE COMING FROM THE RIGHT WING!
GET READY!
RUSTLE
YAAAH
IT'S A CAVALRY CHARGE!
MUSKET-MEN, FAN OUT!
RUSTLE
FROM THE LEFT WING TOO!
ARGH!!
YAAAH
ROARR
RUMBLE
WHOSE ARMY ARE THEY?
THE SOUTHERN CONFED-ERATION SHOULDN'T HAVE MOVED YET.
AAAAHHH
A SNEAK ATTACK?!
AAAH

IT'S A SMALL FORCE OF LESS THAN 10,000 AT MOST!
THEY WERE HIDING IN THE WOODS!
おお
OOH...

THERE'S NO WAY WE WOULDN'T NOTICE A LARGE FORCE SNEAKING UP ON US!
HAVE FAITH IN OUR SCOUTS!
CALM DOWN! THERE AREN'T MANY OF THEM!

AAAH
DON'T STOP MOVING!
CHARGE STRAIGHT AHEAD!
YAAAH
RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUSTLE
SPEARMEN, ADVANCE WITH WEAPONS RAISED!
CAVALRY, FORM RANKS!
ALL FORCES BE ON ALERT!
YAAAAAHHH
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
TSK!
THESE MOVE-MENTS... COULD IT BE?
RUMBLE

YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE?
IN THE LAST HOLY KEY EXPEDI-TIONARY FORCE ...
...I LEFT THE HERO'S COMPANY TO COMMAND THE ARMY OF AN INJURED COMMANDER.
I HOPED IT WOULD RAISE THE ARMY'S MORALE...
...BUT THE WAY THEY CON-TROLLED THE CAV-ALRY WAS NOTHING SHORT OF GODLIKE.
IT WASN'T THE HERO COMMAND-ING THEM, THOUGH.
...!
YOU MEAN ...!
DON'T FACE THE CAVALRY HEAD-ON!
ROAR
FEND OFF THEIR CHARGE AND SUR-ROUND THEM!
ONCE THEY STOP, HIT THEM WITH THE MUSKETS!
ROAR
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

WITH-DRAW THE MUSKET-MEN!
SEND IN THE SPEAR-MEN!
IT'S BECOME A MELEE, AND THE MUSKETS AREN'T WORKING!
THE DEMONS THAT LEAPED OUT OF THE FOREST ARE STRONGER THAN WE EXPECTED!
IT'S NO USE!
SPEAR-MEN, ADVANCE!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

IT'S WHAT THE SPIRIT WANTS!
IT'S WHAT THE SPIRIT WANTS!
PUSH BACK THE DE-MONS!
BOOOOOM
ROAR

KILL THEIR MOMENTUM!
THEY ARE FEW!
FEND THEM OFF!
RUMBLE!
ROYAL PRINCE ...
...MARSHAL!!

CLANG
CLING
CLANG

I'M HONORED TO HEAR YOU CALL ME THAT.
SMILE
LADY COMMANDER OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION!
WHITE ROSE OF AURORA ISLAND!
RIGHT WING OF THE HERO!
SLASH
SMILE
ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL.
RATHER...
HERO OF THE HOLY KINGDOM.
GREATEST LEADER OF THE CENTRAL CONTINENT.
PEACE!
AS A DISCIPLE OF THE SPIRIT, THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER!
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS WHEN YOU KNOW THE ANSWER!
CLANG
CLING
...WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHY DO YOU FIGHT US?

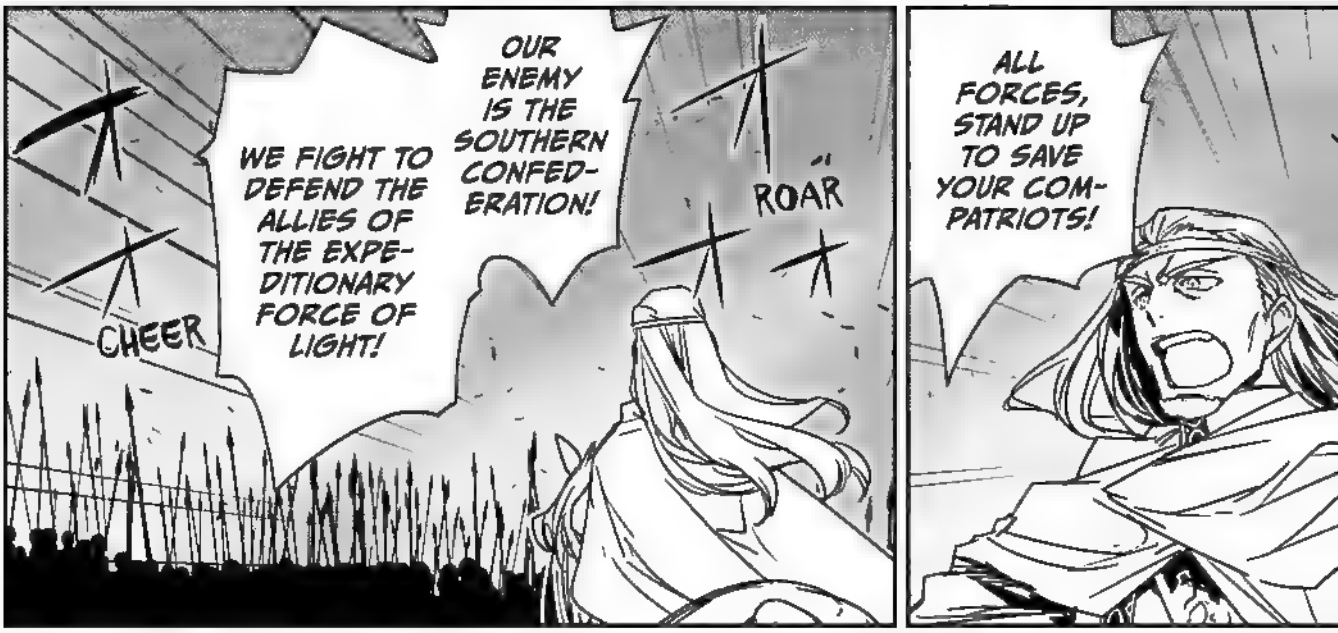
THAT'S NO REASON FOR ME NOT TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN!!
SO WHAT IF IT ISN'T?!
YOU THINK THAT'S POS-SIBLE?
PEACE ?
MONKS, CAST A BINDING SPELL!
DODGE
I DON'T STAND A CHANCE WITH A SWORD.
CLANG
...BY PRAY-ERS!
CRAASH
I WILL NOT BE FORE-STALLED...
FWOOM

DON'T AIM FOR HER DIRECTLY!
FILL THE AIR AROUND HER WITH BULLETS!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
IT DIDN'T WORK.
FIRE!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
HER REACTIONS ARE QUICK.
QUICKER THAN THOSE OF A CERTAIN DEMON GENERAL.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUR MAJESTY?!
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
DODGE

ROAR
CHEER
CAVALRY, FAN OUT!
WE'RE BREAK-ING AWAY!
THIS IS AS FAR AS WE GO.
GALLOP
ROYAL PRINCE MAR-SHAL!
WE'LL FINISH THIS...
...AN-OTHER TIME.
GALLOP
YOU'RE RE-TREAT-ING...
... FEMALE KNIGHT ?
WHOOOOOSH

THEY CAN'T BE STOPPED.
IF WE SEND THEM, WE'LL BE PLAYING INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS!
BRING THEM BACK!
SOUTHERN ARMY
LOGISTICS CORPS
SHOCK TROOPS
PRINCE S ARMY
THE SHOCK TROOPS ARE CHARGING STRAIGHT INTO THE LOGISTICS CORPS!
WE'VE SENT A FORCE BUILT AROUND MUSKET UNITS TO PURSUE THEM!
WE BELIEVE MOST OF THEM DIED TO MUSKET WOUNDS.
THE CHAIN OF COMMAND SUFFERED MANY CASUAL-TIES, IN PAR-TICULAR PETTY OFFICERS.
THE SNEAK ATTACK SHOOK THE CHAIN OF COMMAND TO ITS CORE.
IT SEEMS THEY ATTACKED US TO FRAGMENT OUR COMMAND.
THEY'VE WON THE FIRST ROUND.
TSK!

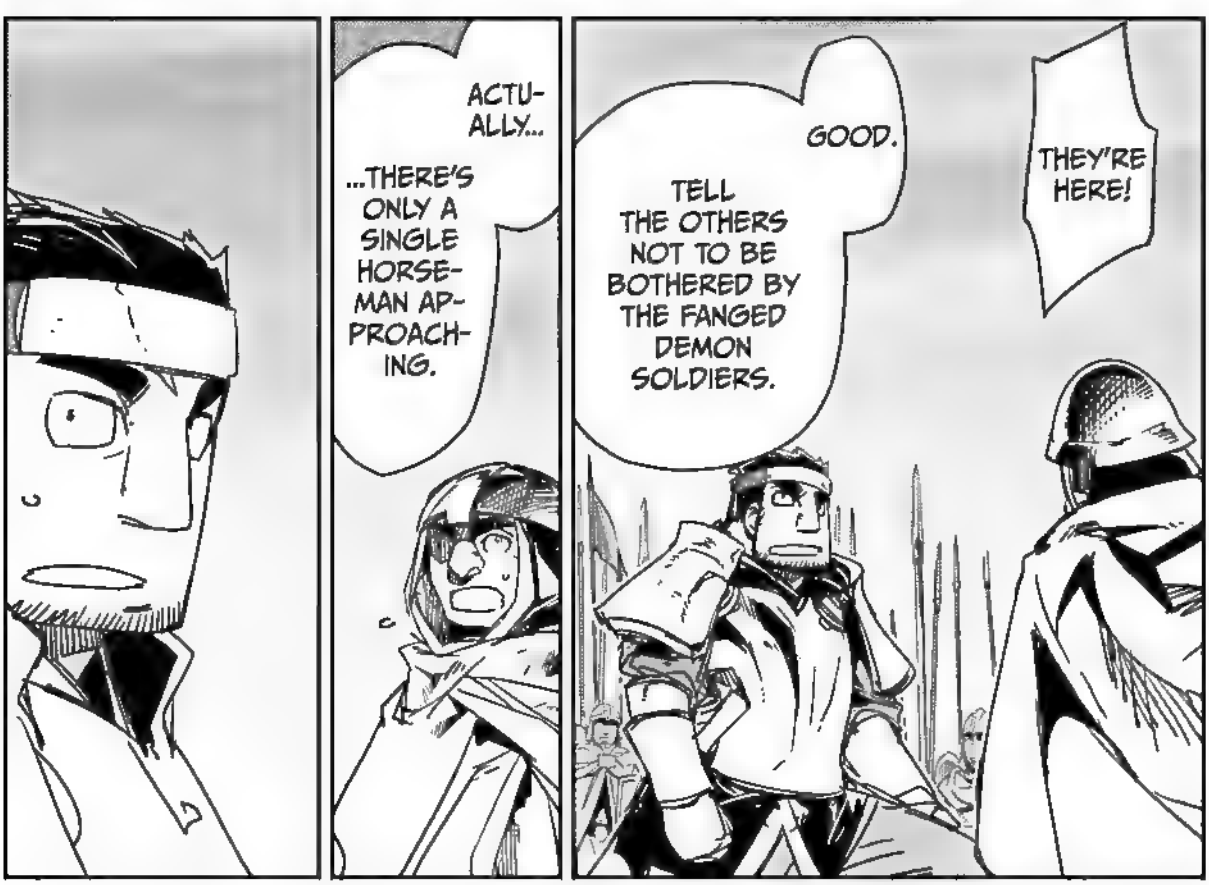
...IF WE DON'T TAKE THE BAIT, WE'LL LOSE 20,000 ALLIED SOLDIERS.
WE'LL KEEP MARCHING AHEAD AND ENGAGE THEM!
I KNOW.
BUT...
YOUR MAJESTY!
AT THIS RATE, THE LOGISTICS CORPS...
BUT...
...IT COULD ALSO BE A DECOY...


CHEER
WE FIGHT TO DEFEND THE ALLIES OF THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE OF LIGHT!
OUR ENEMY IS THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION!
ROAR
ALL FORCES, STAND UP TO SAVE YOUR COMPATRIOTS!

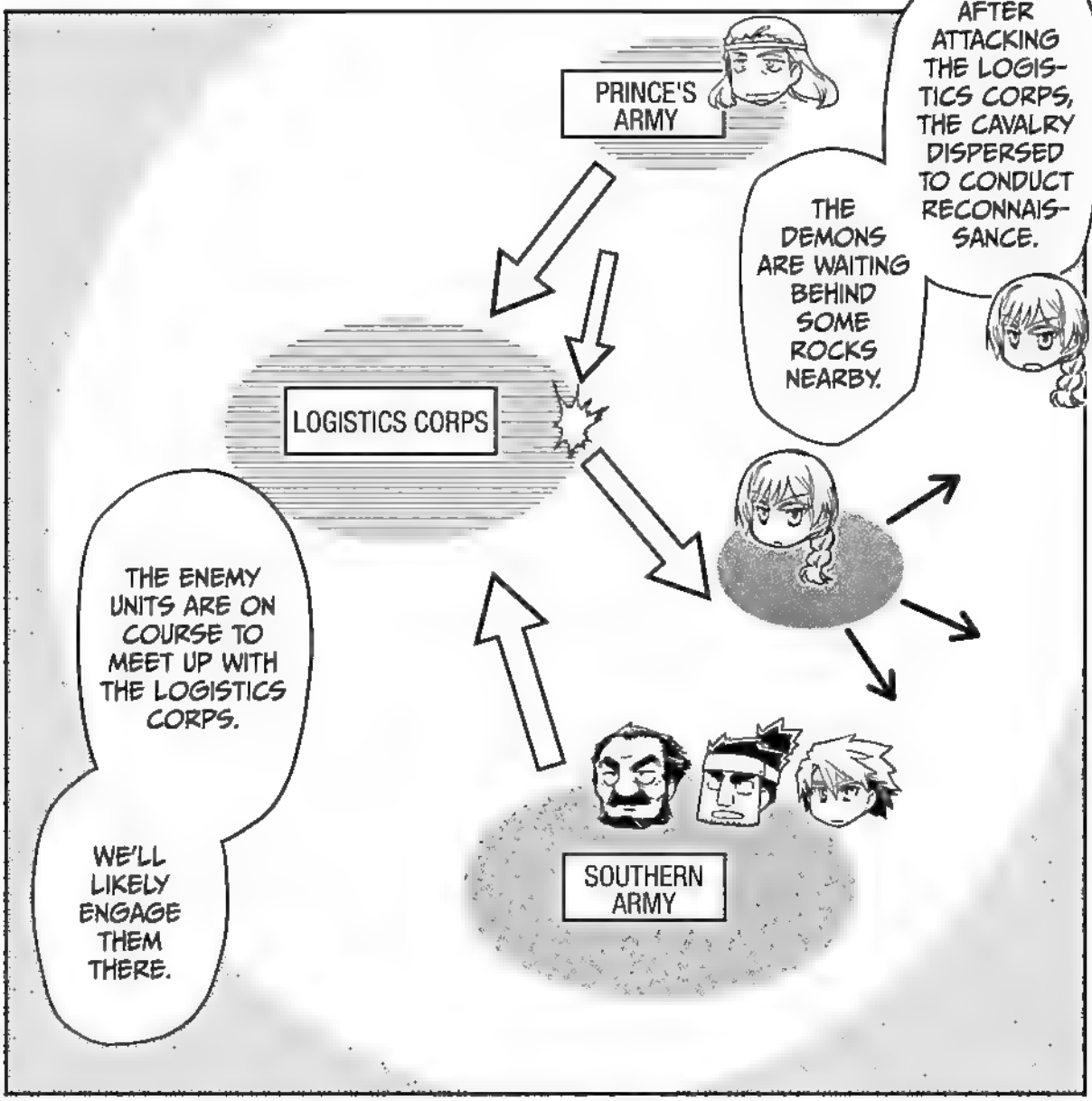
WHAT?!
A STRANGE UNIT?
THE PRINCE'S ARMY IS IN CHAOS AND HEADED THIS WAY.
A STRANGE UNIT IS FLEEING BEFORE THEM.
EMERGENCY!
EMERGENCY!

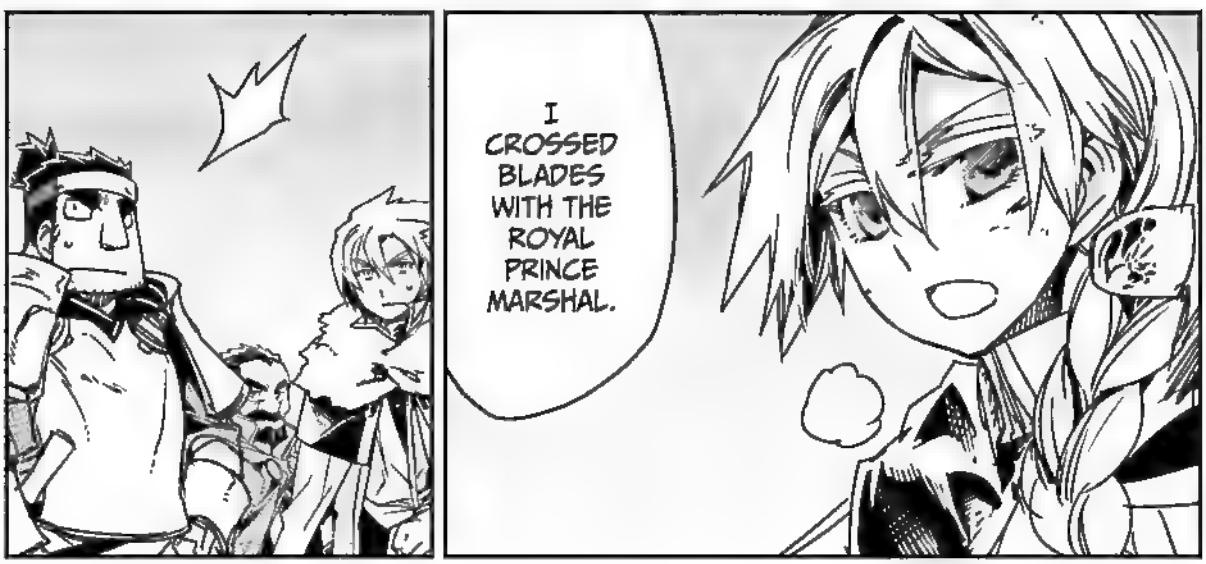
...THE LADY GENERAL ?!
MASTER KNIGHT ...?
IT'S MASTER KNIGHT.
SUCH A STRANGE UNIT.
IT'S HALF HUMAN CAVALRY AND HALF DEMON FOOT SOLDIERS.
PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
PUSH THE VEHICLES TO THE FRONT!
HURRY!
RUSTLE
KNIGHTS, MOUNT YOUR HORSES!
CLIP-CLOP

THEY'RE NOT RUNNING.
THEY'RE DRAWING THEM TO US...
THEY'RE COMING.
THEY'RE COMING.
THEY'RE RUNNING THIS WAY!


ACTUALLY...
...THERE'S ONLY A SINGLE HORSEMAN APPROACHING.
GOOD.
TELL THE OTHERS NOT TO BE BOTHERED BY THE FANGED DEMON SOLDIERS.
THEY'RE HERE!

MASTER KNIGHT!
I KNEW IT WAS YOU!
SOLDIER'S SON!
WHERE IS YOUR ARMY?
I'M GLAD YOU RESPONDED QUICKLY.
YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN UP YOUR POSITION?


PRINCE'S ARMY
AFTER ATTACKING THE LOGISTICS CORPS, THE CAVALRY DISPERSED TO CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE.
THE DEMONS ARE WAITING BEHIND SOME ROCKS NEARBY.
LOGISTICS CORPS
THE ENEMY UNITS ARE ON COURSE TO MEET UP WITH THE LOGISTICS CORPS.
WE'LL LIKELY ENGAGE THEM THERE.
SOUTHERN ARMY


I CROSSED BLADES WITH THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL.

HE'S STRONG ...
... SHARP ...
...AND RELENT-LESS.

WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT LIKE OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.
...HOW WAS IT?

BUT...
...IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT, NOW IS OUR CHANCE.
MANY OF MY MEN MUST HAVE FALLEN AS WELL.

I AGREE.

...I BELIEVE WE MUST CONFRONT HIM BEFORE HE REACHES THE MAIN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
TO CONFIRM HIS TRUE INTEN-TIONS...
THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL IS STRONG.

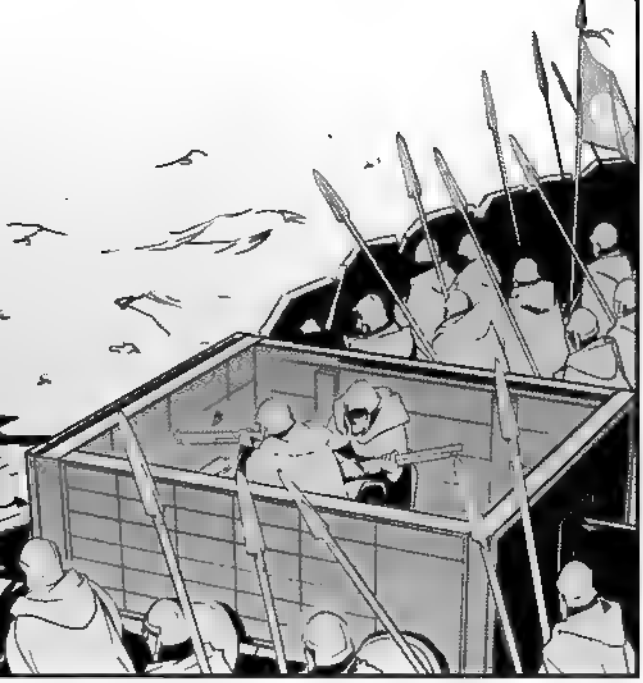
WELL THEN.
SHALL WE GO?
ROGER THAT...
...MASTER KNIGHT!

COM-MAND-ER!
IS THE COM-MANDER HERE?!
GET ME THE COMMANDER OF THE LOGISTICS CORPS!
I'M SORRY.
AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE'S NO SUCH PERSON.
IMPOS-SIBLE!
THEY'RE A DISORGA-NIZED MOB WITHOUT ONE!

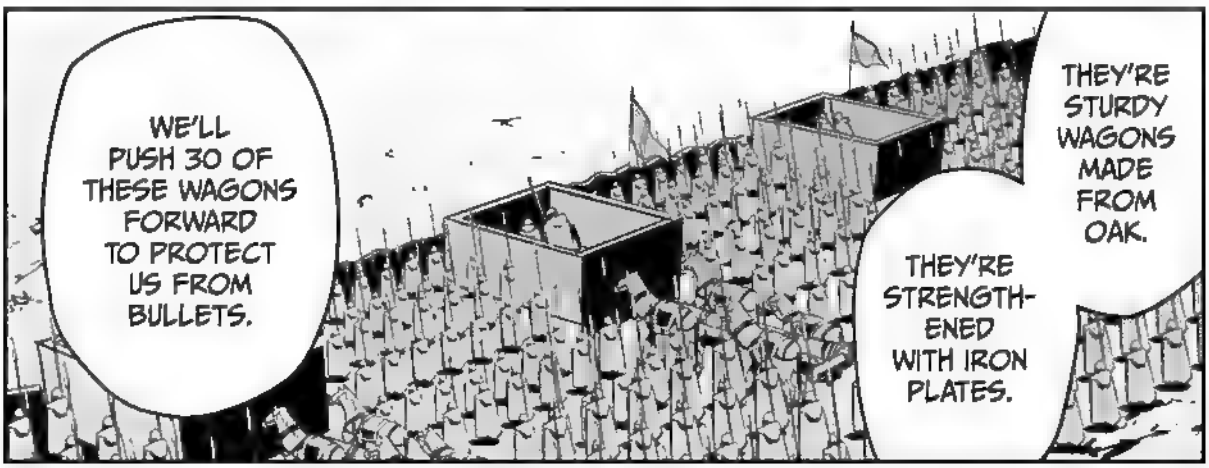
YES, SIR!
YES...
TSK...
HAVE THE LOGISTICS CORPS KEEP MARCHING AHEAD AND MEET UP WITH THE MAIN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

IN-DEED.
TO THINK THEY'D SEND THE WAGONS TO THE FRONT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. IT'S STRANGE.
THEIR FORMA-TION...
THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION IS WITHIN VISUAL RANGE.

OUR ENEMIES SEEM TO HAVE ACQUIRED MUSKETS AS WELL.
THOSE WAGONS ARE PROBABLY MEANT TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THEIR GUNMEN.
DESPITE THEIR GREAT STRENGTH, MUSKETEERS HAVE WEAK DEFENSES.

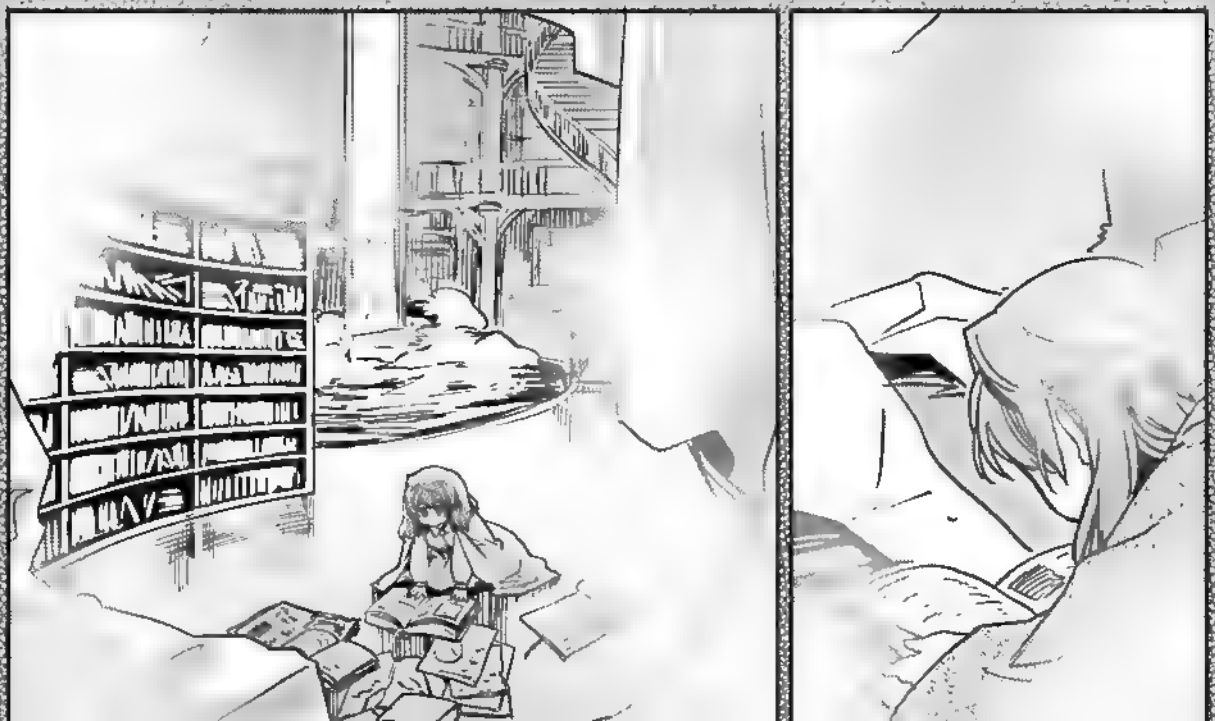


WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S BOTH A FORTRESS AND A VEHICLE.


WE'LL PUSH 30 OF THESE WAGONS FORWARD TO PROTECT US FROM BULLETS.
THEY'RE STRENGTH-ENED WITH IRON PLATES.
THEY'RE STURDY WAGONS MADE FROM OAK.

YOU TAUGHT ME WELL.

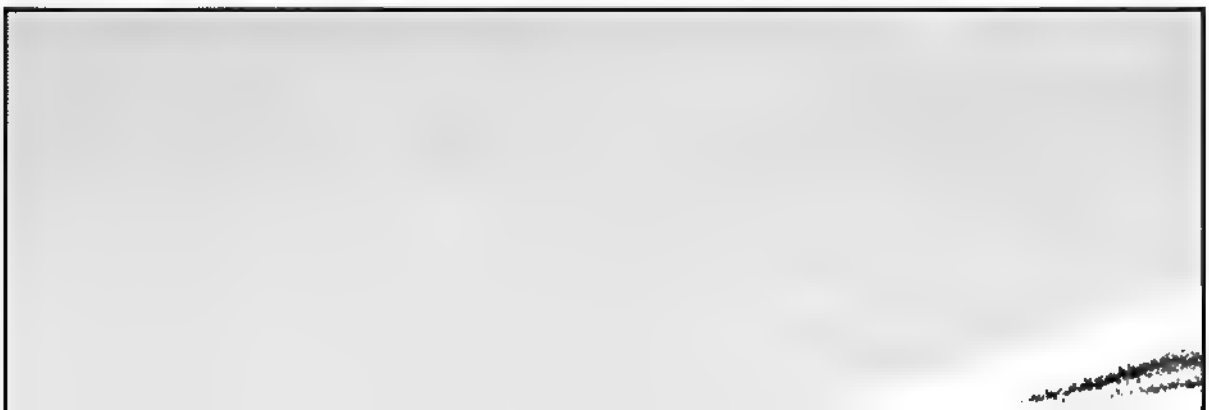
NOT A BAD IDEA.

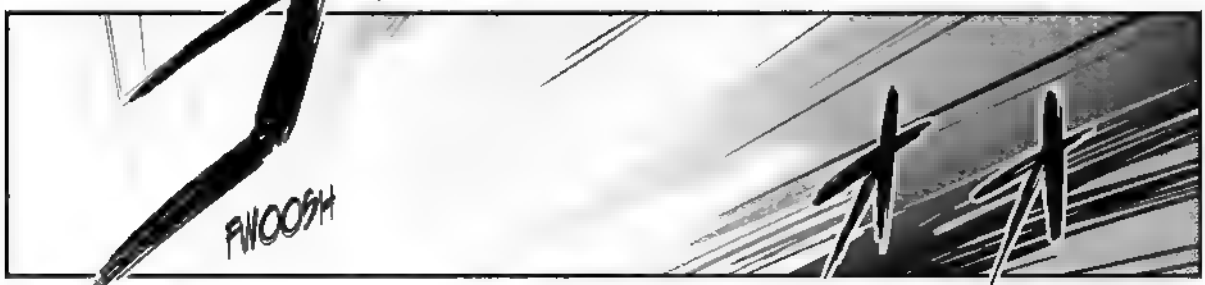


I CAN'T LET THIS CITY FALL.
IF IT DOES, NEITHER DEMONS NOR HUMANS WILL BE ABLE TO RETREAT.
THAT'S WHY IT'S BETTER THAT THE HERO DOESN'T COME HERE.
...IF HE DOES, HE'LL SEE THAT ALTAR.

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT THE HERO.
IF IT WOULD MEAN FIGHTING HIM, THEN FINE.
I'LL ENDURE BEING WITHOUT HIM.
...BUT...
...I MISS HIM.
HERO.

I MISS YOU...




FWOOSH

FWOOSH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WE'RE NEARLY AT GATE-WAY CITY.
I THINK SO...
THIS HAS BEEN QUITE THE RIDE.
WHOOSH

SCREECH

THE END

CHAPTER 50
There is Only One Answer: Peace

ON SCOUTING

Information is important both in times of war and peace. The scouts who gather that information are one of the most important parts of an army.

THE FUNCTION AND IMPORTANCE OF SCOUTS

-- HAVE NIGHT VISION THAT ALLOWS THEM TO SEE CLEARLY BY JUST THE MOONLIGHT.
THEY CAN ALSO CONCEAL THEIR PRESENCE, MAKING THEM EXCEPTIONAL SCOUTS.
FAIRIES -- ESPECIALLY THE SMALL WINGED FAIRIES --

Scouts may be discovered and destroyed by the enemy. If their only responsibility is gathering information, then individuals capable of covert operations make the best scouts.

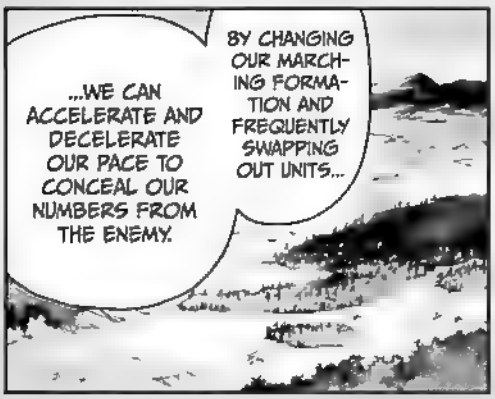
In war, gathering information becomes very important. Without knowing the topography of the battlefield or the scale of enemy forces, it becomes impossible to effectively organize troops, and without knowing where the enemy is headed, they cannot be dealt with. This idea is expressed in a famous quote from the Chinese military text *The Art of War*: "Know your enemy and know yourself, find naught in fear for one hundred battles." It means that with a firm grasp on both the enemy's and one's own state of affairs, a hundred battles could be fought without a single loss. Because The Art of War was written before the common era, we can see how highly valued information has been since ancient times, and the responsibility of gathering information for armies falls on scouts.

Scouts are positioned in the van of an army. They travel in front of the main force and determine what lies in the army's path. They investigate the lay of the land and enemy positions. Not only do they follow and report on retreating enemy forces, but they also sometimes fight enemy scouts they happen upon or fight limited battles with the goal of investigating the organization and strength of enemy units.

In the modern era, reconnaissance is also conducted from the air using airplanes and helicopters. However, because it can be difficult to spot hidden enemy units lying in wait, vehicle and foot soldier scouts are still essential.

Additionally, under especially important circumstances, officers may sometimes conduct reconnaissance themselves. This is because by seeing the battlefield for himself, the general can quickly respond to a situation. Before officer training systems were well established, wars relied heavily on the wits of individual generals. Rather than developing strategies based on reports from others, it must have been quicker and more accurate to see the battlefield firsthand and think. Though this never happens in modern wars, Napoleon, who once swept across all of Europe, went to the front lines as commander-in-chief of his forces several times.

Information is important not only in war, but also inter-business competition. Industry spies who steal confidential information are in some ways scouts.


...WE CAN ACCELERATE AND DECELERATE OUR PACE TO CONCEAL OUR NUMBERS FROM THE ENEMY.
BY CHANGING OUR MARCHING FORMATION AND FREQUENTLY SWAPPING OUT UNITS...

The enemy also sends out its own scouts. Assuming the enemy conducts reconnaissance, it becomes necessary to take measures to prevent them from learning the facts as well.

Though compared to the rest of the world, Japan was slow to establish penal regulations, the laws have been reformed to be stricter. Information is just that valuable.

IN A SUNNY SPOT

MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 51

COME TO THINK OF IT, WE HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THAT YET
HERO.
WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD LIKE?

HEY.
HERO.
WHAT IS IT?

WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
PRETTY NORMAL, I'D THINK.
I LIVED IN A SHABBY HOUSE DEEP IN THE FOREST.

I AM CURIOUS.
HOW DID YOU ACQUIRE YOUR SKILLS WITH SWORDS AND MAGIC?

YOUR SWORD TECHNIQUE SEEMS RECKLESS AT FIRST.
BUT UPON CLOSER INSPECTION, IT SEEMS TO HAVE AN ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE REFINEMENT ...
...OR PROPER FORM TO IT.
FURTHERMORE, UNLIKE SWORDSMANSHIP, MAGIC IS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE.
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE TAUGHT YOURSELF.

...HMM.
?

Chapter 51 Archenemy and Hero
It's What the Spirit Wants!

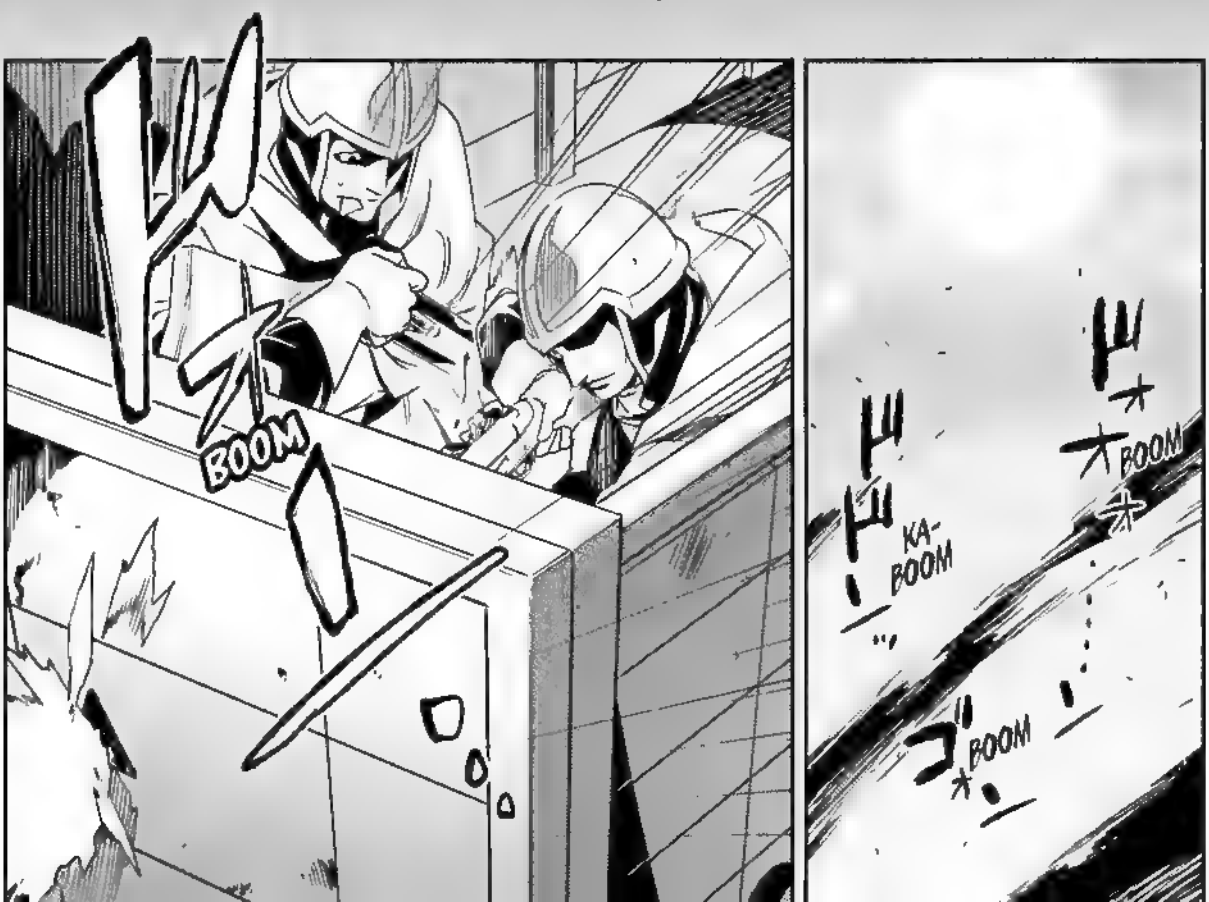
...HAVE I FAILED AGAIN?
NOT AT ALL.
PERHAPS THE HERO DIDN'T WANT ME TO ASK.
EITHER WAY, YOU DID NOTHING WRONG.
IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD BE ASKED...
...EVEN IF THE PERSON YOU'RE ASKING DOESN'T WANT YOU TO.
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...OLD.
...OLD MEMORIES SHOULD SOMETIMES BE TAKEN OUT...
...EXPOSED TO FRESH AIR, AND DUSTED OFF.
IT MAY HURT...
...BUT IT REMINDS US OF WHERE WE'RE STANDING.
YOU'RE AWAKE
YUP.

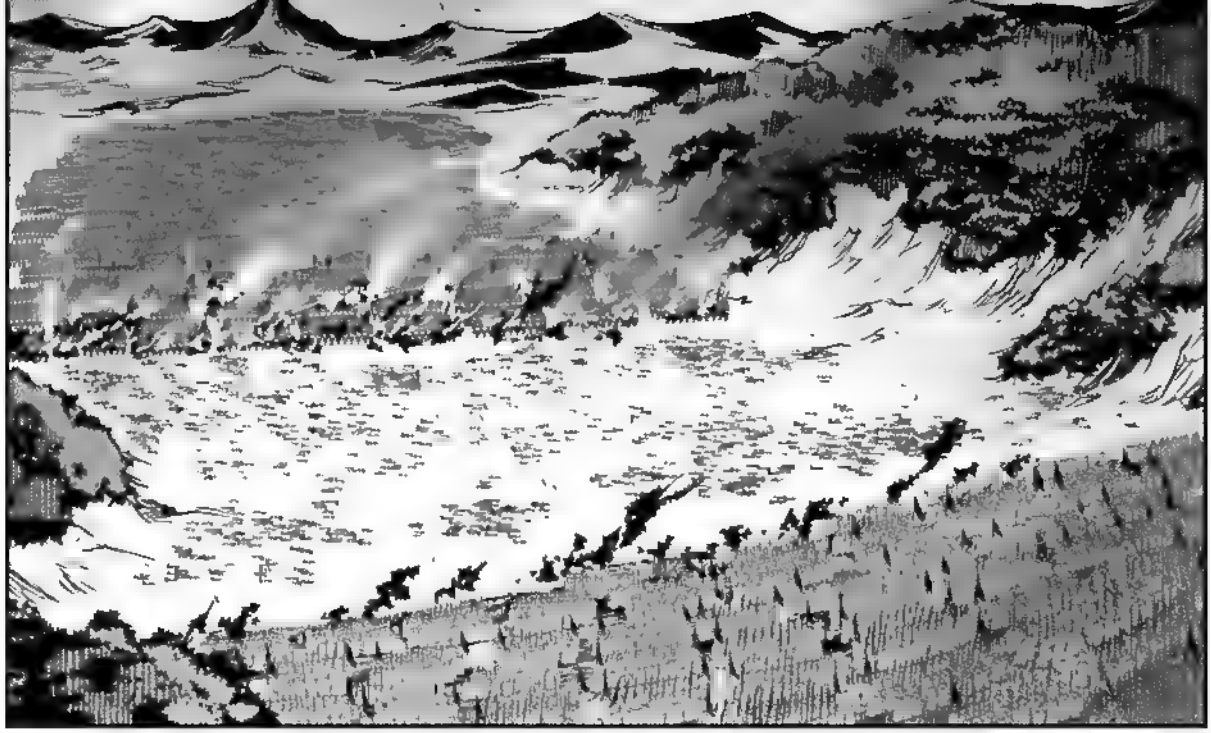
I BECAME A KNIGHT AT THE LAKESIDE CONVENT.
I LEARNED SWORD TECHNIQUES AND PRAYERS FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
I WAS REGARDED AS A PRODIGY.
I LACK CONFI-DENCE.
EVEN I BELIEVED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE I POSSESSED...
...INCREDIBLE STRENGTH.
BUT...
...AFTER MEETING THE HERO, THOSE THOUGHTS WERE BLOWN AWAY.

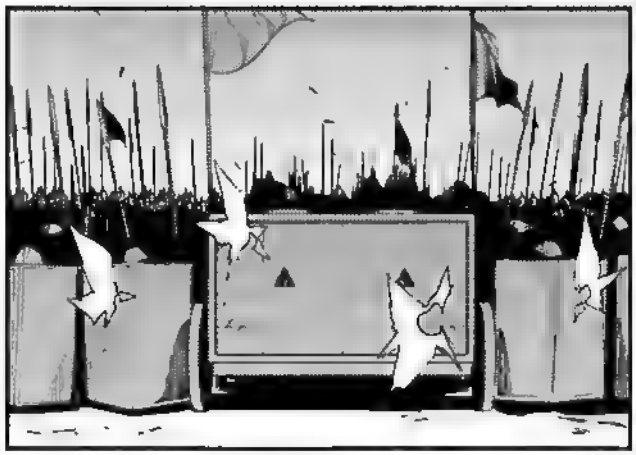
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE WORLD THE HERO SEES.
I DESPERATELY TRY TO CATCH UP TO THE HERO...
...BUT HE'S ALWAYS RUNNING AHEAD OF ME.
SOMETIMES HE TURNS AROUND AND WAITS FOR ME.
IT DOES FRUSTRATE ME...
...BUT MORE THAN THAT, THE HERO SEEMS SO SAD.
THE WEIGHT OF MY OWN POWERLESSNESS NEARLY CRUSHES ME.
INDEED ...
...IT DOESN'T MATTER.
...BE THAT AS IT MAY, YOU SHOULD STAY WITH HIM.
THAT'S ALL.
SIMPLE.
....

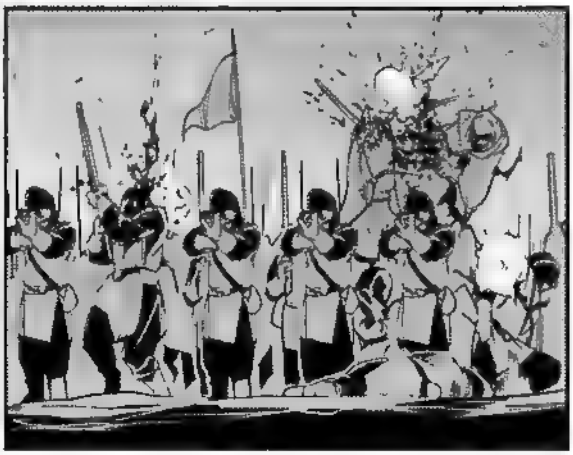
...IF YOU DON'T MEAN TO WIN, YOU CAN TURN TAIL AND RUN.
YOU THINK...
...SO?
...IF YOU CAN STAY WITH HIM UNTIL THE END...
...YOU WIN.
YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND NOW, BUT AS LONG AS YOU DO EVENTUALLY...
...YOU WIN.
...IF ONLY YOUR BREASTS WERE AS LARGE AS YOUR ATTITUDE.
I'M GOOD AT STICKING IT OUT UNTIL THE END.
SINCE YOU'RE ALWAYS NAPPING, AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WILL BE LEFT BEHIND?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

...I WON'T BACK DOWN.
YOU TOOK THE WORDS OUT OF MY MOUTH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE HASN'T NOTICED THIS.
IT MAKES ME WONDER IF THIS IS HIS TRUE NATURE.


BOOM
KA-BOOM
BOOM
BOOM







RETREAT
600
STEPS!

MARCH
MARCH
MARCH

YES, SIR!
AFTER FIRING FROM HORSEBACK, TURN AROUND AND BREAK AWAY IMMEDIATELY!
GO NOW!
TRACHICK
O-KAY!
LEFT WING CAVALRY ARE READY!
SNORT
YAAAAAHHH
YAAAAAHHH
RUMBLE
WHOOSH
BOOSH
KABOOSH
DO THEY ALWAYS MAKE SUCH PRECISE MOVE-MENTS?
SO PARTIC-ULAR
ADVANCE 300 STEPS!

WHAT?
THEY CERTAINLY ARE ASTOUNDINGLY TENACIOUS.
INDEED.
NO.
I'M JUST IMPRESSED.
IS SOMETHING WRONG...
...LONELY WINTER KING?
BUT REGARDLESS, HE HASN'T LET US DRAW THE FRONT LINE TOWARD US.
IF IT WERE ME, I'D GROW IMPATIENT AND CHARGE RIGHT IN.
THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE. AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE TO HARRY HIS CHAIN OF COMMAND...
...THERE SHOULD BE MORE THAN A LITTLE CONFUSION.
WHILE CONTROLLING OUR CHARGE WITH MUSKETS...
...HE'S ADVANCING HIS OWN PLANS.

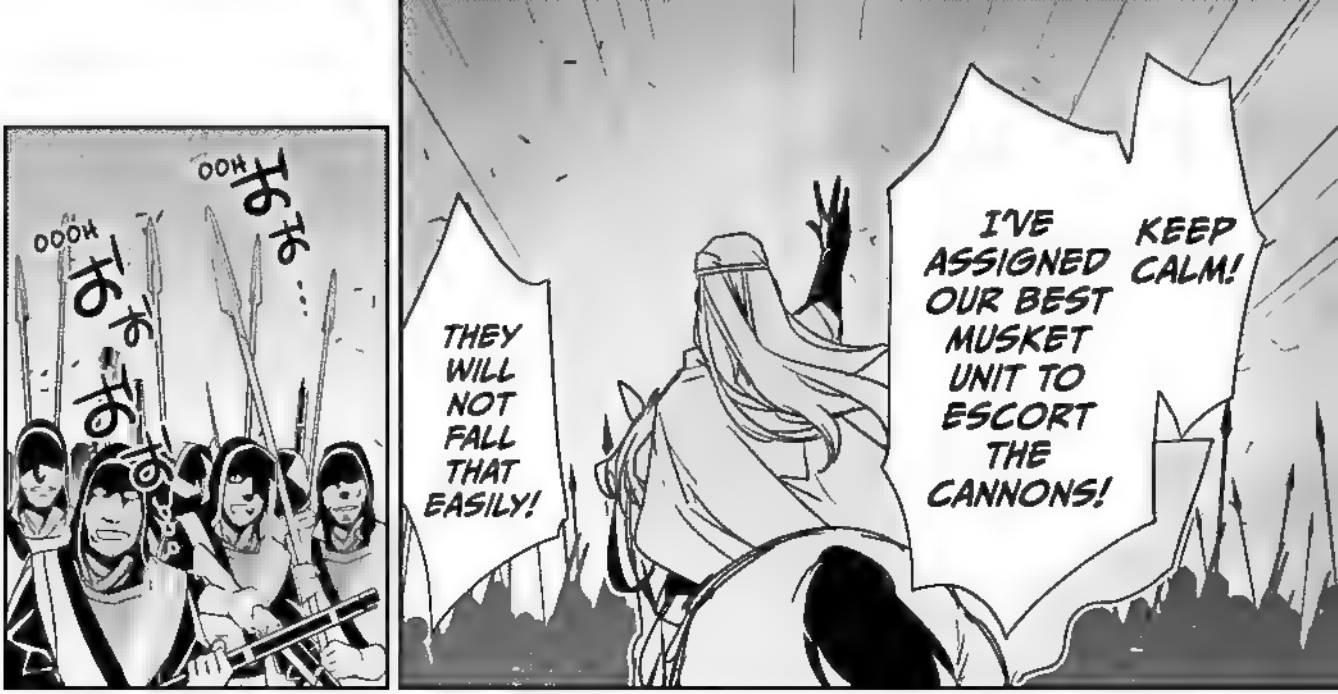
WHAT IS HIS PLAN?
...JOINING HIS ALLIES?
GATEWAY CITY
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE MAIN ARMY
PRINCE'S ARMY
SOUTHERN ARMY
BY CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THE FRONT LINE AND THE MAIN FORCE...
...HE'S LIKELY TRYING TO GAIN A NUMBERS ADVANTAGE.
WE'VE ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR THIS, THOUGH.
WE'LL HAVE TO SETTLE THIS LATER.
WE'LL PROBABLY REACH A STAND-STILL.
WILL IT BE DIFFICULT TO BRING THEM DOWN?

THEY'RE USING PRECISE TACTICS.
DO YOU SUPPOSE IT'S THE LADY GENERAL?
I SENSE AN INDOMITABLE AND TENACIOUS UNBREAKABLE SPEAR.
I SENSE THE WILL OF ONE DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE THIS BATTLE.
THE SOUTH HAS MANY STRONG MEN AS WELL.
NO.
THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE HER.
AND THOSE...
...ARE NO ORDINARY MUSKETS.
THEY'RE LONG-RANGE AND HIGHLY ACCURATE MUSKETS.
BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO HAVE VERY MANY.
THOSE HORSELESS WAGONS ARE REINFORCED WITH METAL PLATES.
THEY CAN'T BE DESTROYED BY MUSKETS.

THE CANNONS BEING TRANSPORTED FROM THE REAR SHOULD ARRIVE SHORTLY.
THEY'RE LIKE MOVING FORTRESSES OR ENCAMPMENTS.
...WHICH MEANS WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY THEM WITH CANNONS.
CLOP
WITH CANNONS ...
...THEIR DEFENSIVE WAGONS WILL BE NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
WHAT?
...ARE BEING ATTACKED BY A CAVALRY UNIT!!
THE CANNON LOGISTICS CORPS...
I BRING A MESSAGE!

HA.
POW
POW
POW
POW
RUMBLE
YAAAH
YAAAH
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THE LADY GENERAL WOULD DO.
I WAS JUST BEGINNING TO WONDER WHY...
...I HADN'T SEEN HER ON THE FRONT LINES.


KEEP CALM!
I'VE ASSIGNED OUR BEST MUSKET UNIT TO ESCORT THE CANNONS!
THEY WILL NOT FALL THAT EASILY!
OOOH
おお
OOOH
おおお

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THINGS CAN'T CONTINUE LIKE THIS.
FOR SOME REASON THEY'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD'S TOPO-GRAPHY.
CONTINUING THIS ENGAGE-MENT WOULD BE LIKE FIGHTING IN THE PALM OF THEIR HAND.

KEEP ADVANCING OUR MAIN POSITION WHILE APPLYING PRESSURE!
ROAR
ROAR

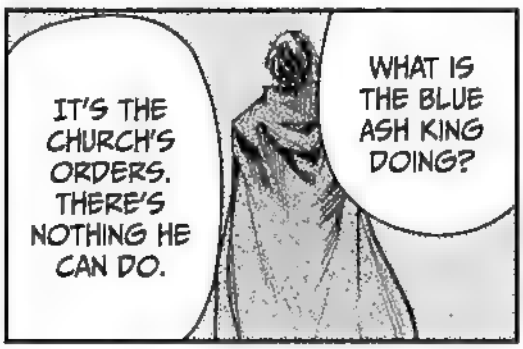
LET'S SEE WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO...
...ONCE WE JOIN THE MAIN FORCE.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION ARMY AND DEMONS STRUGGLE...
...THEY'RE FAR TOO WEAK COMPARED TO US TO OVERTHROW US WITH CLEVER SCHEMES AND SNEAK ATTACKS.
BOOM...
BOOM.....
BOOM

I WISH WE COULD EAT WARM BREAD SOMETIMES.
BEAN SOUP AGAIN, HUH...

I'M HUN-GRY.
SIGH ...

THE NOBLES GATHERED UP ALL THE FOOD.
THEN WHY...

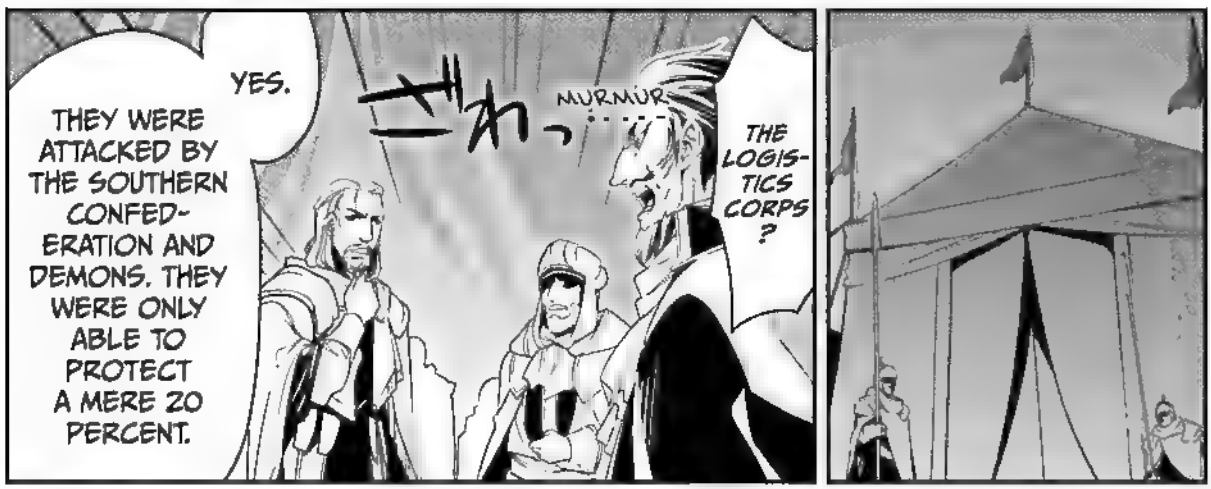
WASN'T THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL SUPPOSED TO BRING US FOOD?
YEAH.
PLENTY OF UNITS THAT WERE MEANT TO SECURE FOOD SUPPLIES...
...HAVE ARRIVED FROM THE REAR.


IT'S THE CHURCH'S ORDERS. THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN DO.
WHAT IS THE BLUE ASH KING DOING?

THEY WERE AMONG THE SUPPLIES WE PLUNDERED FROM THE DEMON ARMY.
THEY'RE POTA-TOES.
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

RUSTLE
THOSE ARE THE BLASPHE-MOUS...!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I'LL HAVE TO EAT THESE...

I'LL GO... IF IT MEANS I CAN EAT BREAD, I'LL GO ANY-WHERE...
ME TOO...
APPARENTLY YOU GET BREAD FOR ATTENDING THE CONFES-SION MEET-INGS.
THOSE THINGS THE LILY KNIGHTS ARE HOLD-ING?

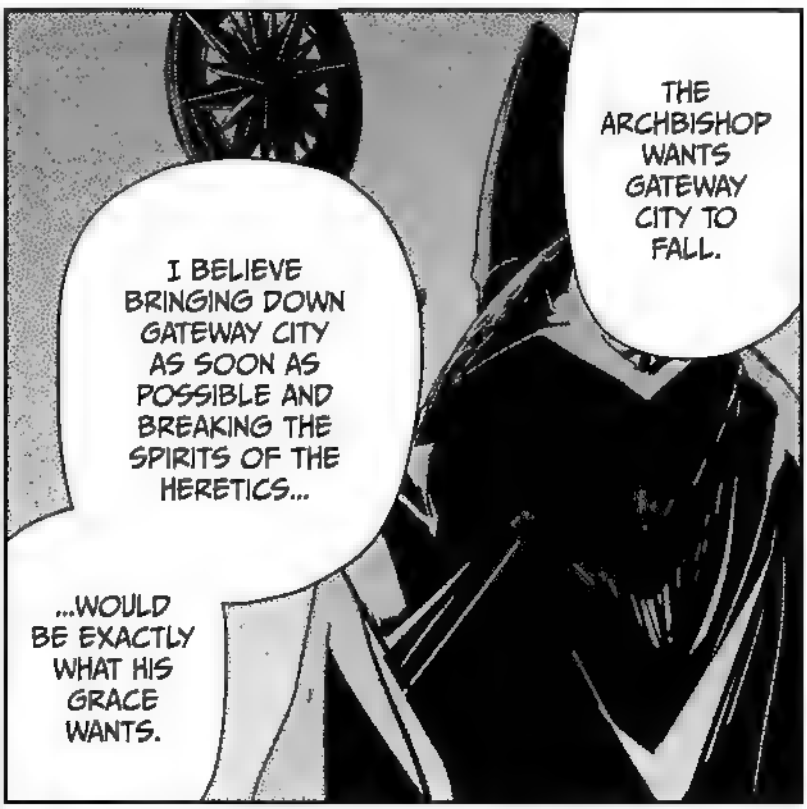

YES. THEY WERE ATTACKED BY THE SOUTHERN CONFED-ERATION AND DEMONS. THEY WERE ONLY ABLE TO PROTECT A MERE 20 PERCENT.
MURMUR
THE LOGIS-TICS CORPS?

THE SERF SOLDIERS SEEM TO BE STARVING...
...BUT THOSE CREATURES WOULD SLURP MUD TO SURVIVE.
SO WHAT? WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD IN OUR STORES.
OOH
MURMUR

....
I HEARD HIS MAJESTY THE MARSHAL HAS RETURNED.
YES.
HE'S TAKEN UP POSITION ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BESIEGING ARMY.
MURMUR
BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LOGISTICS CORPS' RETREAT...
INDEED.
SOMEONE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
MURMUR
THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING THE LOGISTICS CORPS...
MURMUR
BUT...
...THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL'S DETACHED FORCE LEFT TO ATTACK THE BLUE DEMON TERRITORY!
....
COULD IT BE ...
IF THE MARSHAL HAD ACTED MORE QUICKLY TO SAVE THEM...
...COULDN'T HE HAVE SAVED AROUND HALF THE LOGISTICS CORPS?
!
..."THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL COULD HAVE MADE IT THERE IN TIME."
BECAUSE ...
IS HIS.

I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD RUIN THE MARSHAL.
WE SHOULD HAVE HIM TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR THIS EVENT...
...AND HANDLE THE SOUTHERN PIGS IN THE REAR.
THEN THE MARSHAL WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR HIS MISTAKE.

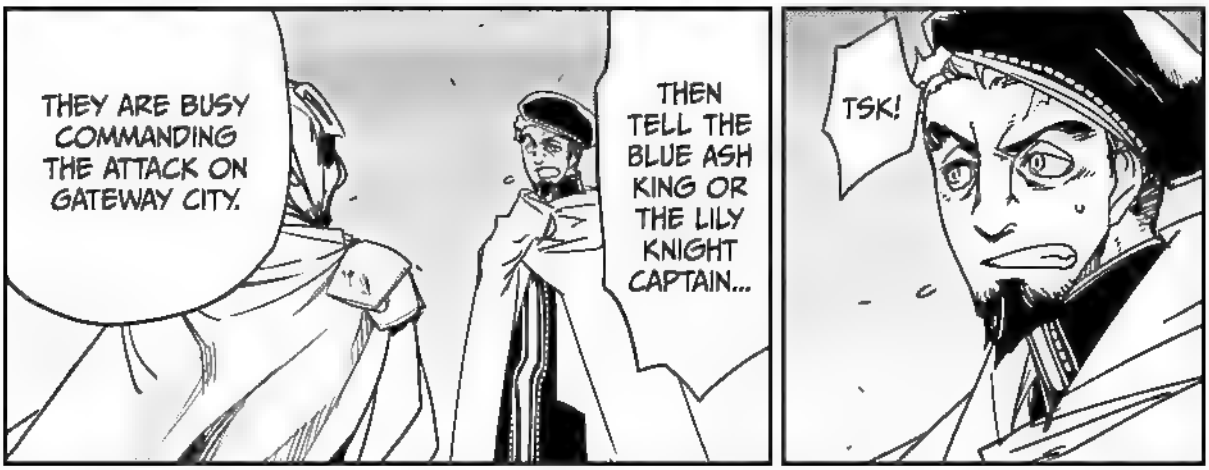
BUT...
...WE CAN'T CALL INTO QUESTION THE RESPON-SIBILITY OF THE ROYAL PRINCE MARSHAL...
IN THAT CASE...
...LET'S HAVE THE CHURCH HELP US.


THE ARCHBISHOP WANTS GATEWAY CITY TO FALL.
I BELIEVE BRINGING DOWN GATEWAY CITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND BREAKING THE SPIRITS OF THE HERETICS...
...WOULD BE EXACTLY WHAT HIS GRACE WANTS.

HEH ...
HEH HEH ...
HEH HEH HEH ...
HEH HEH HEH ...

CHEERS!
TO THE MARSHAL'S HONOR!
TO THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE'S VICTORY!
CLINK
CLINK
FOR HIS GRACE!
HEH HEH HEH.
A TOAST TO THE GLORY OF THE SPIRIT OF LIGHT!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
BOOM
BOOM
I TOLD YOU...
...TO PASS THE MESSAGE ON TO THE ARCHBISHOP!
BOOM
MURMUR
MURMUR
CLANG
CLANG

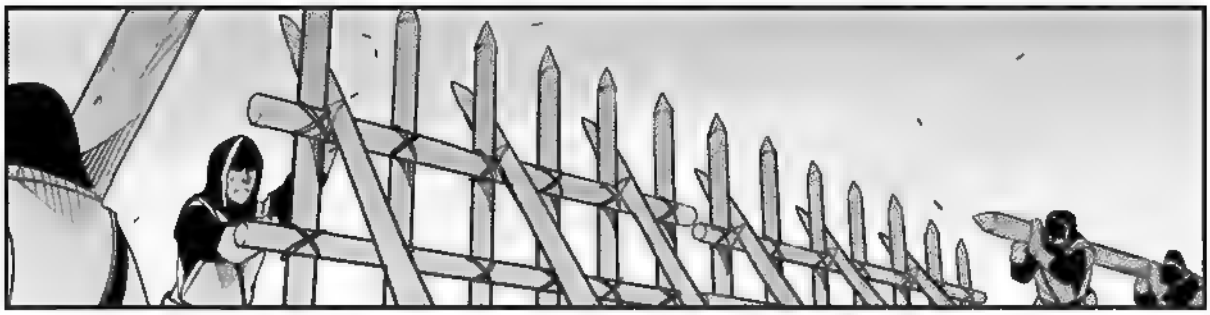
I CANNOT.
HIS GRACE IS PRAYING FOR THE DEAD.


THEY ARE BUSY COMMANDING THE ATTACK ON GATEWAY CITY.
THEN TELL THE BLUE ASH KING OR THE LILY KNIGHT CAPTAIN...
TSK!

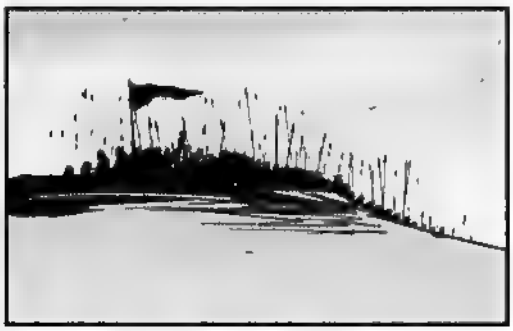
ENOUGH.
EITHER WAY, WE'LL HAVE TO HANDLE THE SOUTHERN ARMY.
ALL THEY'RE DOING IS SHOOTING CANNONS AT WALLS!

カン
CLANG
カン
CLANG

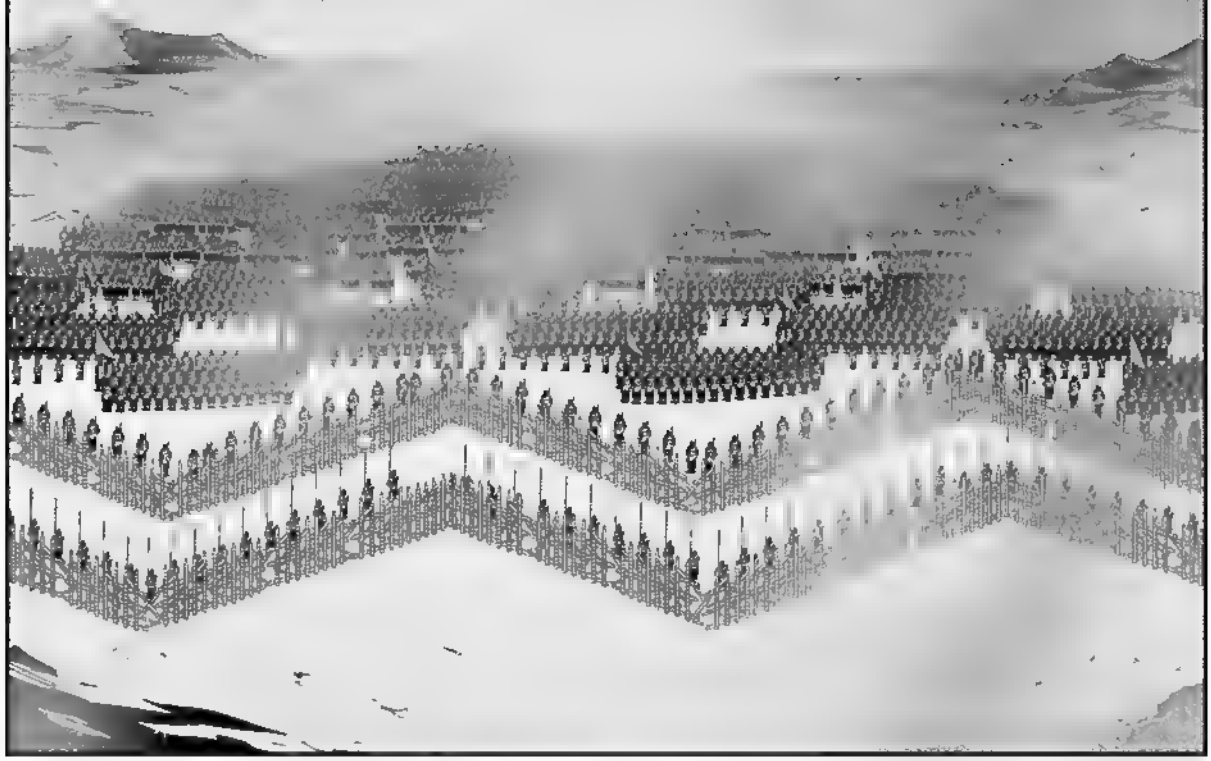
ROAR
YES, SIR!
GET THE CHEVAUX-DE-FRISE IN PLACE QUICKLY!

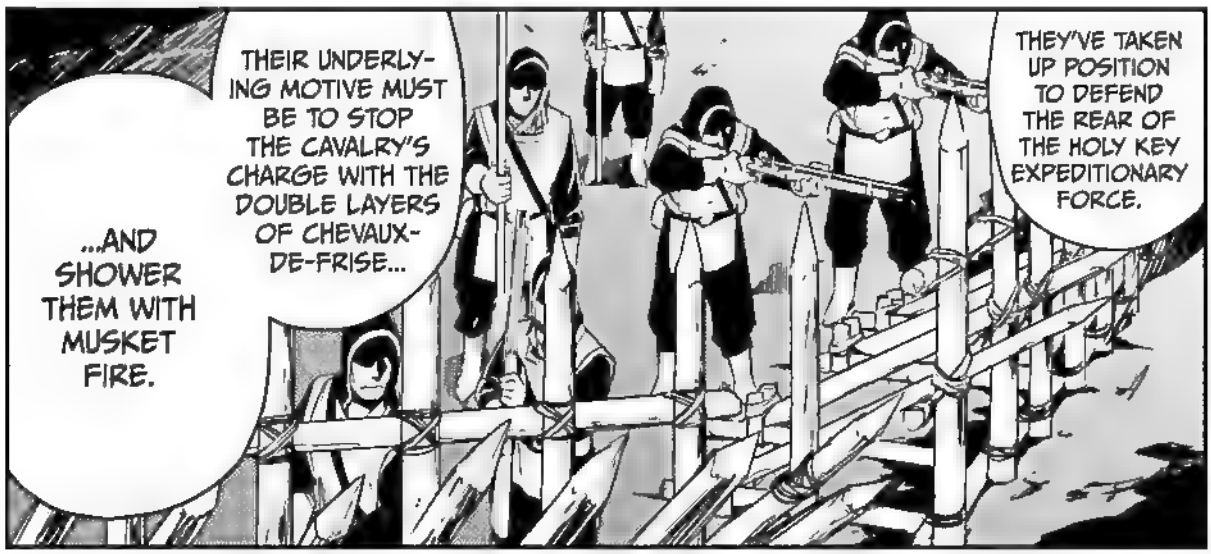


WHAT A STRANGE FORMATION.
THAT FORMATION, HUH?

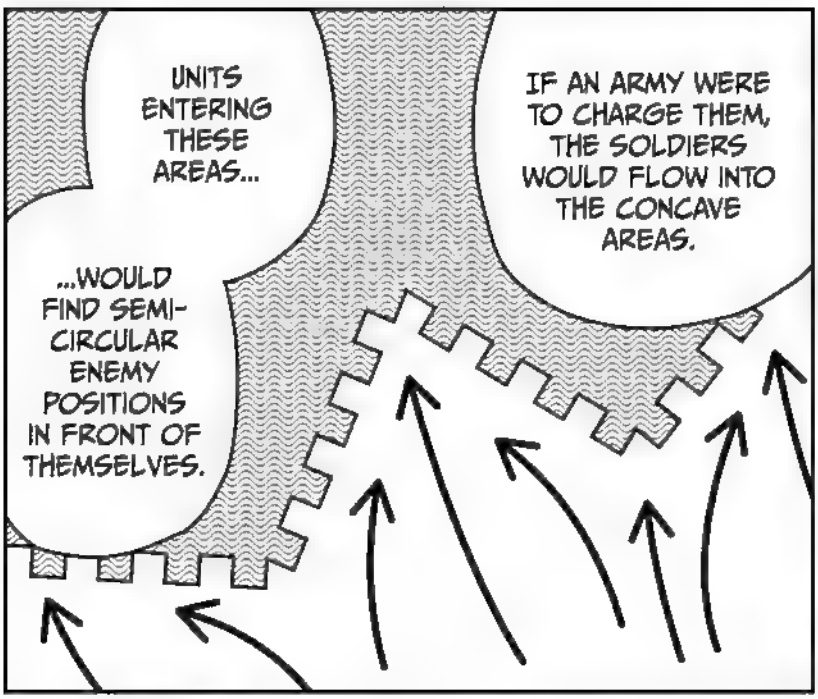


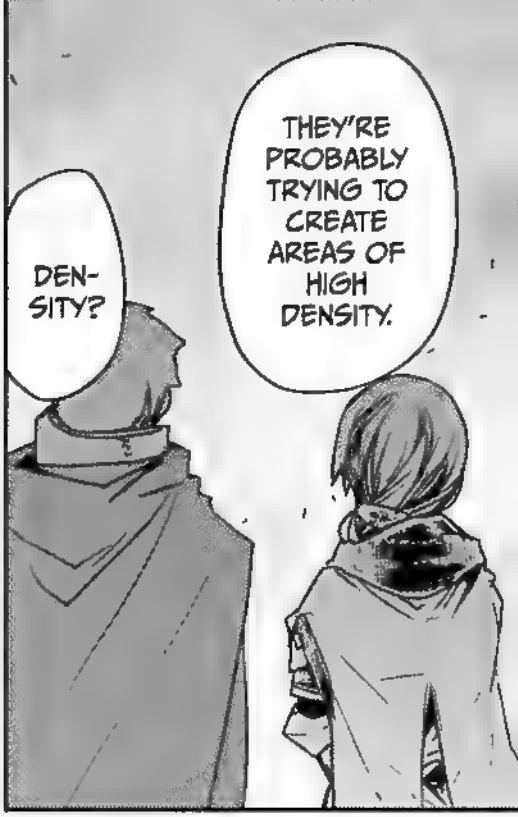
I SEE.
THEY'VE TAKEN UP POSITION IN THE REAR OF THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE!
THE PRINCE'S ARMY AND THE LOGISTICS CORPS HAVE JOINED THE MAIN FORCE...



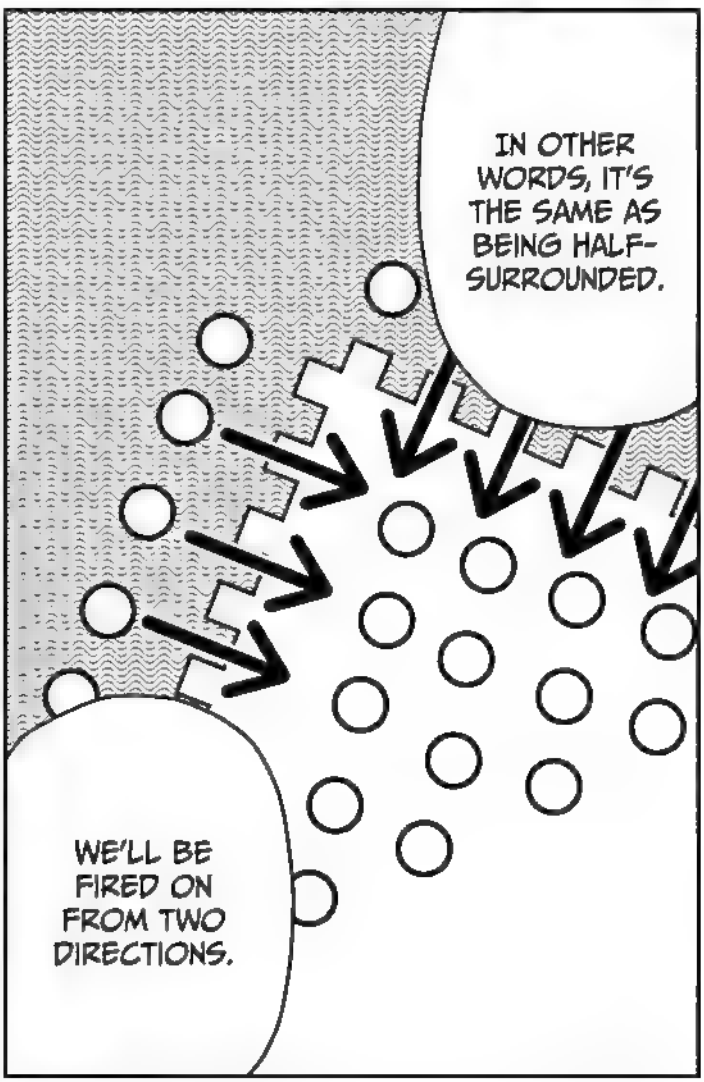

THEY'VE TAKEN UP POSITION TO DEFEND THE REAR OF THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.
THEIR UNDERLYING MOTIVE MUST BE TO STOP THE CAVALRY'S CHARGE WITH THE DOUBLE LAYERS OF CHEVAUX-DE-FRISE...
...AND SHOWER THEM WITH MUSKET FIRE.

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY THEIR DEFENSIVE LINE IS WAVY.


UNITS ENTERING THESE AREAS...
...WOULD FIND SEMI-CIRCULAR ENEMY POSITIONS IN FRONT OF THEMSELVES.
IF AN ARMY WERE TO CHARGE THEM, THE SOLDIERS WOULD FLOW INTO THE CONCAVE AREAS.

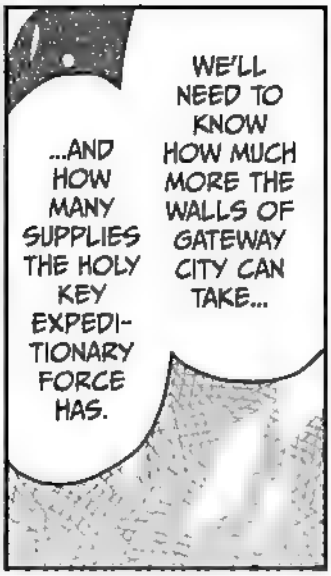

DEN-SITY?
THEY'RE PROBABLY TRYING TO CREATE AREAS OF HIGH DENSITY.

THAT FORMATION IS A FORMATION OF SLAUGHTER MEANT TO MAKE BEST USE OF THEIR MUSKETS.
IT'S DESIGNED TO FOCUS THEIR FIRE ON ONE POINT BY FIRING FROM MULTIPLE DIRECTIONS.


IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S THE SAME AS BEING HALF-SURROUNDED.
WE'LL BE FIRED ON FROM TWO DIRECTIONS.

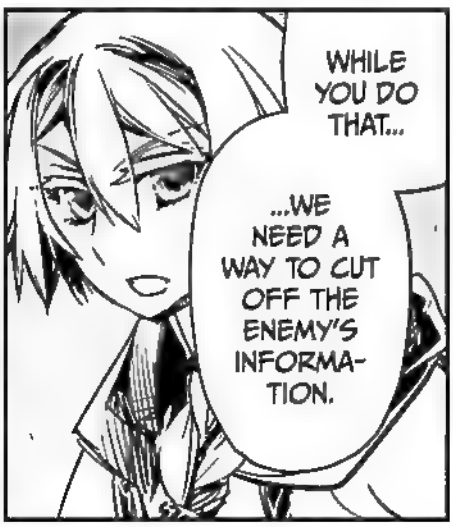
DRAW THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION TOWARD THEMSELVES AND DEFEAT US AT ONCE WITH A MASSIVE FORCE.
THAT'S THEIR STRATEGY.
WE'LL HAVE TO SACRIFICE A LOT TO MAKE IT THROUGH THEIR LINE OF DEFENSE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...IF WE DO NOTHING, THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE WILL SIMPLY KEEP ATTACKING THE CITY.
BUT WE CAN'T JUST DO NOTHING...
THEN WE'LL ENGAGE THEM IN...
...AN INFORMATION WAR.
HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF MAN TO DO THAT.
IF WE COULD JUST DRAW THEM OUT..!

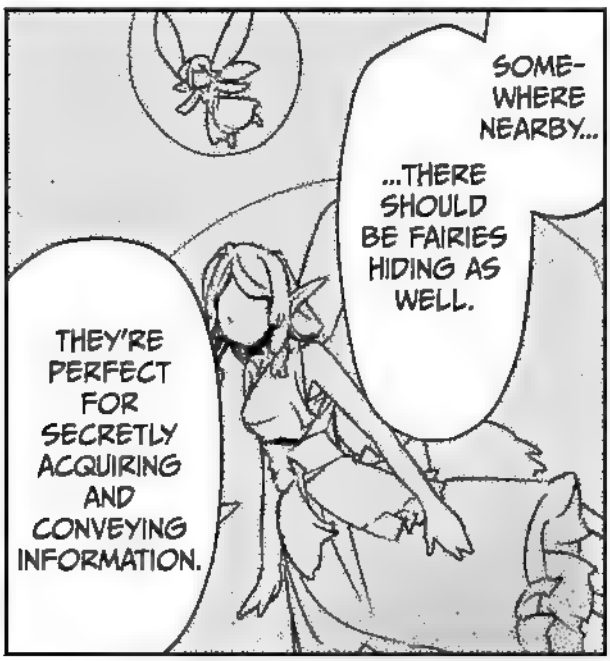
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND.
LARGE ARMIES ARE EASY ENOUGH TO INFILTRATE.

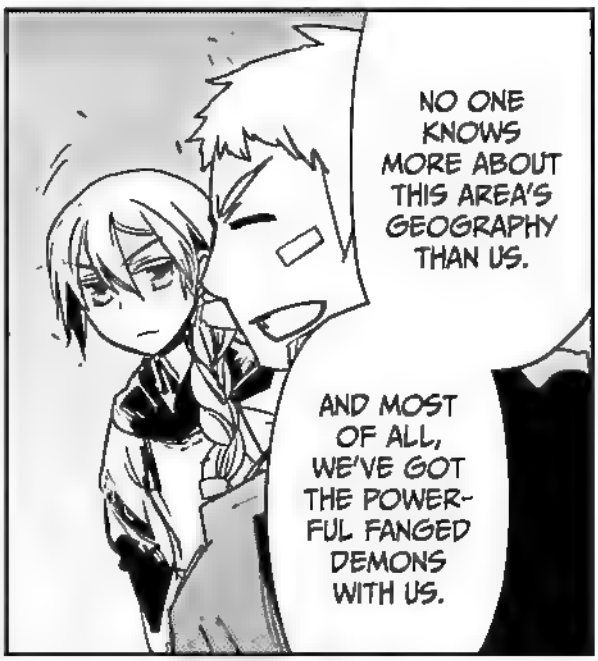

WE'LL NEED TO KNOW HOW MUCH MORE THE WALLS OF GATEWAY CITY CAN TAKE...
...AND HOW MANY SUPPLIES THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE HAS.

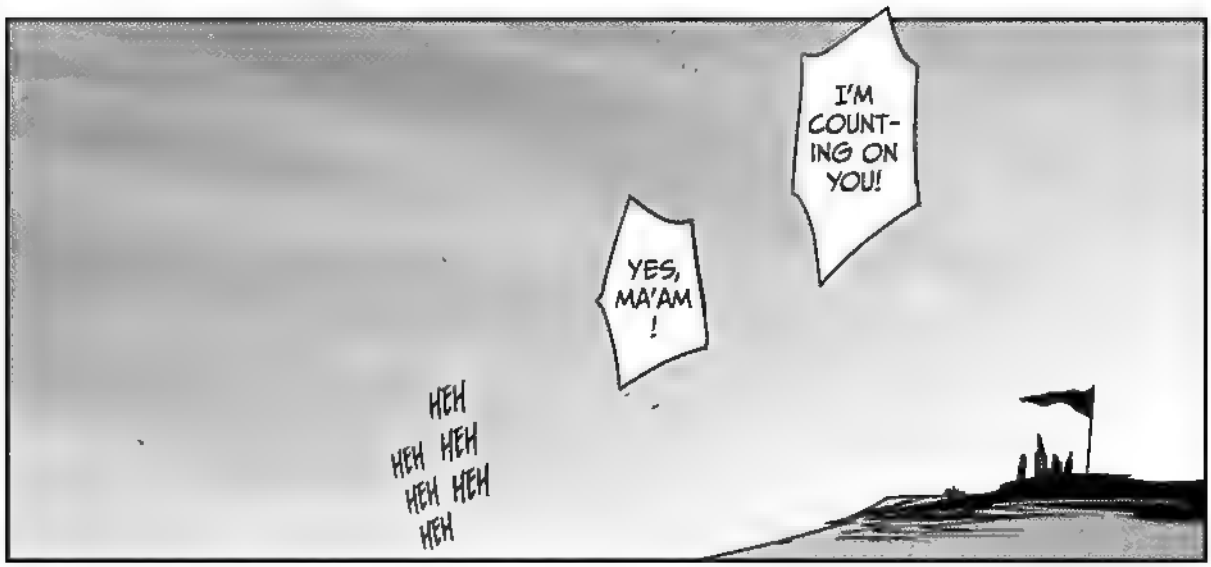
WE'LL HIDE OUR CARDS WHILE READING THEIRS.
TO DO THAT, WE'LL NEED INFORMATION.

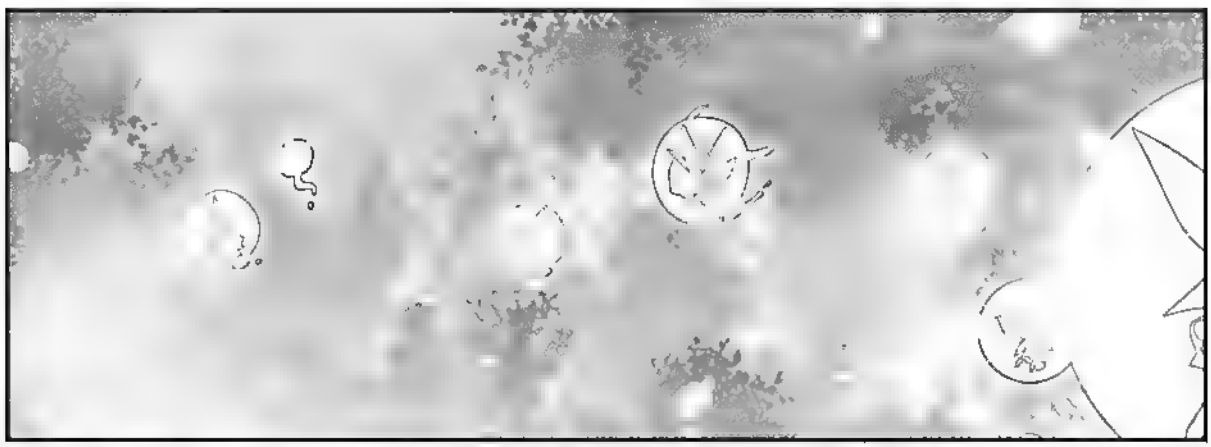
DEAL WITH THEIR SCOUTS, YOU MEAN?
LEAVE THAT TO US.
RUSTLE


WHILE YOU DO THAT...
...WE NEED A WAY TO CUT OFF THE ENEMY'S INFORMATION.


SOMEWHERE NEARBY...
...THERE SHOULD BE FAIRIES HIDING AS WELL.
THEY'RE PERFECT FOR SECRETLY ACQUIRING AND CONVEYING INFORMATION.


NO ONE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THIS AREA'S GEOGRAPHY THAN US.
AND MOST OF ALL, WE'VE GOT THE POWERFUL FANGED DEMONS WITH US.


I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
YES, MA'AM!
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH



KU-RUL-TAI.
KU-RUL-TAI.
KU-RUL-TAI.
KU-RUL-TAI.
KU-RUL-TAI.

BURN
YES!
KU-RUL-TAI!
KU-RULTAI?
WHIRRR
THE DEMON QUEEN IS HOLED UP IN THE CITY AND FIGHTING DESPERATELY.
BEEP
HUH
THE HUMANS HAVE ADVANCED ON GATEWAY CITY AGAIN.
KU-RULTAI, HUH...
WAR...
SCARY...
PERHAPS THE KURULTAI'S BEING HELD SO WE CAN FIGHT HUMANS.
IT COULD BE.

TO THE KU-RULTAI!
KU-RULTAI.
THE DEMON QUEEN COULD BE ASKING FOR HELP.
BUT WE HAVE TO GO.
THE DEMON QUEEN IS CALLING US.
ROAR
KABOOM
BOOM
ROAR
MARCH
MARCH
IT'S WHAT THE SPIRIT WANTS!
IT'S WHAT THE SPIRIT WANTS!
MARCH
MARCH
SHUDDER
THEY ...
THEY'RE COMING AGAIN!
どよ
STIR
BUT IT'S POINT-LESS.
STEP
STEP
STEP

STEP
STEP
STEP
CRAWL
LONG LIVE THE ARCH-BISHOP!
STEP
IT'S WHAT THE SPIRIT WANTS.
STEP
STEP
STEP
THUD
WUMPH
WUMPH
DON'T THEY VALUE THEIR LIVES?
DON'T THEY...
THEY'RE CRAZY.
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
STRAIN
I THINK I'M LOSING MY MIND.
DAMN IT!
BURN
FWOOSH
WHOOSH
MAY THE LIGHT ... SHINE ON... THE SPIRIT ...
PANT
PANT
PANT

BOOM

PRIN-
CESS!
WHY...
DEMON
QUEEN.
I HAVE
RETURNED.
STEP

MER-
CHANT
?!
LONG
TIME, NO
SEE...
...
SCHOL-
AR.

WHAT?
DEMON
KING?
HE'S ALSO
KNOWN AS
THE HUMAN
DEMON
KING, AND
HE IS MY
HUSBAND.
ONE
OF THE
LEADERS
OF THE
ALLIANCE
...
...THE
HUMAN
WORLD'S
MOST
EMINENT
MERCHANT
ORGANIZA-
TION.
WHO
IS HE?

I CAN'T ALLOW THE ENTIRE SPIRIT WORLD TO BE DESTROYED.
YOU KNOW THAT, PRINCESS.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR REIN-FORCE-MENTS.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
HE IS THE REINFORCE-MENTS YOU ASKED ME TO BRING YOU.
WHICH OF US SHOULD STAY IN THIS CITY?
WHICH OF US SHOULD RETREAT TO THE BLAZING MOUNTAIN RANGE AND LATER GET BACK ON HER FEET?
YOU ARE THE QUEEN OF THE SPIRIT WORLD.
I AM A MEMBER OF THIS CITY'S SELF-GOVERNING COMMITTEE.
SCHOLAR, YOU BELIEVE THIS LINE OF DEFENSE MUST ABSOLUTELY HOLD, DON'T YOU?
WELL, I...
BUT...
...THIS CITY...
DEMON QUEEN, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO DOES NOT UNDER-STAND.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SURPRISED ME SO FAR?
ANYWAY, TO THINK YOU WERE THE DEMON QUEEN.
IT CAME AS QUITE THE SURPRISE.
I HAVE NO TIME FOR APPEARANCES RIGHT NOW...
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE YOU'RE THE WOMAN WHO APPROACHED ME THAT DAY.
ANYWAY, YOU LOOK RATHER DESPONDENT...
...SCHOLAR.
?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
I MEANT TO SAY YOU LOOK SO FLUSTERED, IT'S UNSIGHTLY.

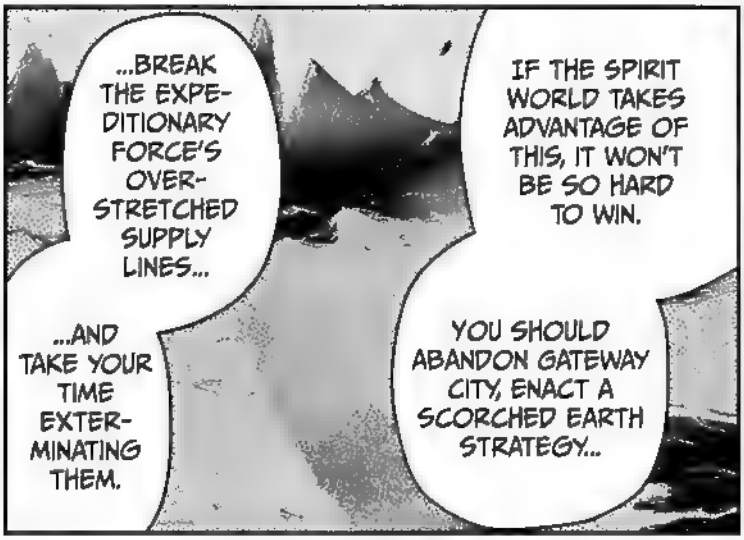
STOP SLACKING OFF AND DO YOUR JOB.
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE THE DEMON QUEEN...
...EVEN I'M BEING ASKED FOR HELP NOW.
IS SHE ANGRY?
PLEASE GET HER ENGINE GOING AGAIN.
YOU'RE NOT.
BUT THE HUMAN FORCES...
I AM!
I AM DOING MY JOB!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU SHOW NO NATURAL TALENT FOR IT.
IT WOULD BE ONE THING IF THERE WERE NO ONE ELSE WHO COULD DO IT...
...BUT THERE ARE OTHERS, AND YOU'RE NOT USING THEM.
WHAT IS THE DEMON QUEEN'S JOB, ANYWAY?
COMMANDING THE DEFENSE OF CITIES?
COMMANDING THE FRONT LINES?

YOUR DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS ARE THE BROADNESS OF YOUR SEEMINGLY INFINITE PERSPECTIVE THAT ALLOWS YOU TO SEE FAR INTO THE DISTANCE...
...AND YOUR LUCID SENSE OF BALANCE REACHING BEYOND THE DISTINCTIONS OF ENEMY AND ALLY.
DESPITE YOUR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND KNOW EVERYTHING...
...YOU ARE KIND...
...AND AN IDEALIST.
YOU DESPERATELY WISH TO SAVE EVERYONE.
YOU SAID THE SECOND STRONGEST BOND IS THE BALANCE OF PROFITS AND LOSSES.
ISN'T THAT BECAUSE THE STRONGEST IS SACRED?
HONESTLY, I'M A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED.
TRY TO START THINKING FASTER.
AFTER THE LOSS OF A DEAR SUBJECT...
...I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D BE COWERING FROM THE PAIN.
BUT BE THAT AS IT MAY...
...THE PATH YOU ARE WALKING WILL ALWAYS PRODUCE CASUALTIES.

GIVE ME TWO MINUTES.
YOU ARE NOT.
WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING ISN'T STOPPING THE ARMY IN FRONT OF YOU.
AM I WRONG?
"HOW DO I WANT THIS WAR...
...TO END?"
IN RE-SPONSE, THE NEXT QUESTION IS...
"WHAT SHOULD WE BE ASKING...
...RIGHT NOW?"
THE FIRST QUES-TION IS ALWAYS ...
AND THEN SIGN A PEACE TREATY.
...SUFFER ANY MORE LOSSES.
...I WILL MAKE BOTH SIDES LAY DOWN THEIR SWORDS SO THAT NEITHER HUMANS NOR DEMONS...
THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER.

GATEWAY CITY IS THE CRITICAL MOMENT.
TO AVOID A BLOOD-STAINED FUTURE...
...WE MUST DEFEND THIS CITY.

THE CURTAINS WILL RISE ON A THOUSAND YEARS OF WAR.
IF THIS CITY FALLS, DEMONS WILL RESENT HUMANS.
HUMANS WILL SEE THE SPIRIT WORLD AS NO MORE THAN A NEW COLONY.


IF THE SPIRIT WORLD TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THIS, IT WON'T BE SO HARD TO WIN.
YOU SHOULD ABANDON GATEWAY CITY, ENACT A SCORCHED EARTH STRATEGY...
...BREAK THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE'S OVER-STRETCHED SUPPLY LINES...
...AND TAKE YOUR TIME EXTERMINATING THEM.

THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE CERTAINLY IS STRONG.
BUT IT HAS A WEAKNESS AS WELL.
ITS ABILITY TO SECURE SUPPLIES.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT, THEN YOU MUST FIGHT YOUR OWN WAY.
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO ALONG WITH YOUR ENEMIES' PLANS.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
...THAT'S HOW I KNEW IT WAS YOU.

BUT...
...I CAN'T DO THAT.
THAT WOULD STILL LEAVE A THOUSAND-YEAR GRUDGE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. AS LONG AS I KEEP DEFENDING...
...THE THOUGHT THAT THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE MIGHT RETREAT...
...IS NO MORE THAN WISHFUL THINKING.
IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...YOU CANNOT WIN BY HOLING YOURSELF UP IN HERE LIKE A TURTLE.
YOU JUST WON'T LOSE.
?
I HEAR YOU.
...HAVE DISGRACED MYSELF
I COULDN'T EVEN SEE THAT?
I...
...I AM CURRENTLY CALLING MYSELF THE DEMON KING.
WHAT?
THOUGH I AM DEEPLY ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT...
...AFTER GETTING INVOLVED IN A CERTAIN CLEVER AND DECEITFUL PLOY...
THE IDEA OF TELLING YOU THIS LIES HEAVY ON MY MIND...
...AND GIVES ME GREAT SORROW.

AT ANY RATE, DUE TO THE CIRCUM-STANCES...
...I HAVE A DUTY TO SAVE GATEWAY CITY AS WELL.
YES.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHAT?
DEMON KING?
DEMON KING?
WHAT?
SO LET ME HANDLE THIS...
...SITUA-TION.
I HAVE STEELED MYSELF AS WELL.
I AM PREPARED TO RISK EVERYTHING FIGHTING TO SAVE THIS CITY.
LET THE PUBLIC SERVANTS AND THE COMMANDER HANDLE THESE REPORTS.
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN WORK TO DO, DEMON QUEEN.

WITHOUT THE HERO, YOU SLOW US DOWN.
THEREFORE, WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE.
....
WE'RE SAYING THAT YOU'RE GETTING IN THE WAY.
BUT...
...I COULD STAY HERE ...
GO FIND HIM.
I CAN'T SEE YOU LIKE THIS.
DEMON QUEEN!
WHAT IS HAP-PENING ?
STEP
ズ ズ TREMBLE ズ
RUMBLE ズ
?

THE HUMANS ...
CALM DOWN.
THEY...
THAT IS...
THE HU-MANS ...
THEY'RE ...
PANT
PANT
THE HUMANS EX-PLODED.
THE HOLY KEY EXPE-DITIONARY FORCE HAS DONE THE UNTHINK-ABLE...

WE THOUGHT THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SOLDIERS WERE CHARGING IN WITH SPEARS...
...BUT THEIR BODIES ERUPTED INTO ENORMOUS EXPLOSIONS.

THE WALL NEAR THE SOUTH GATE HAS BEEN DESTROYED ...
...AND THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH!

YAAAAAHHH

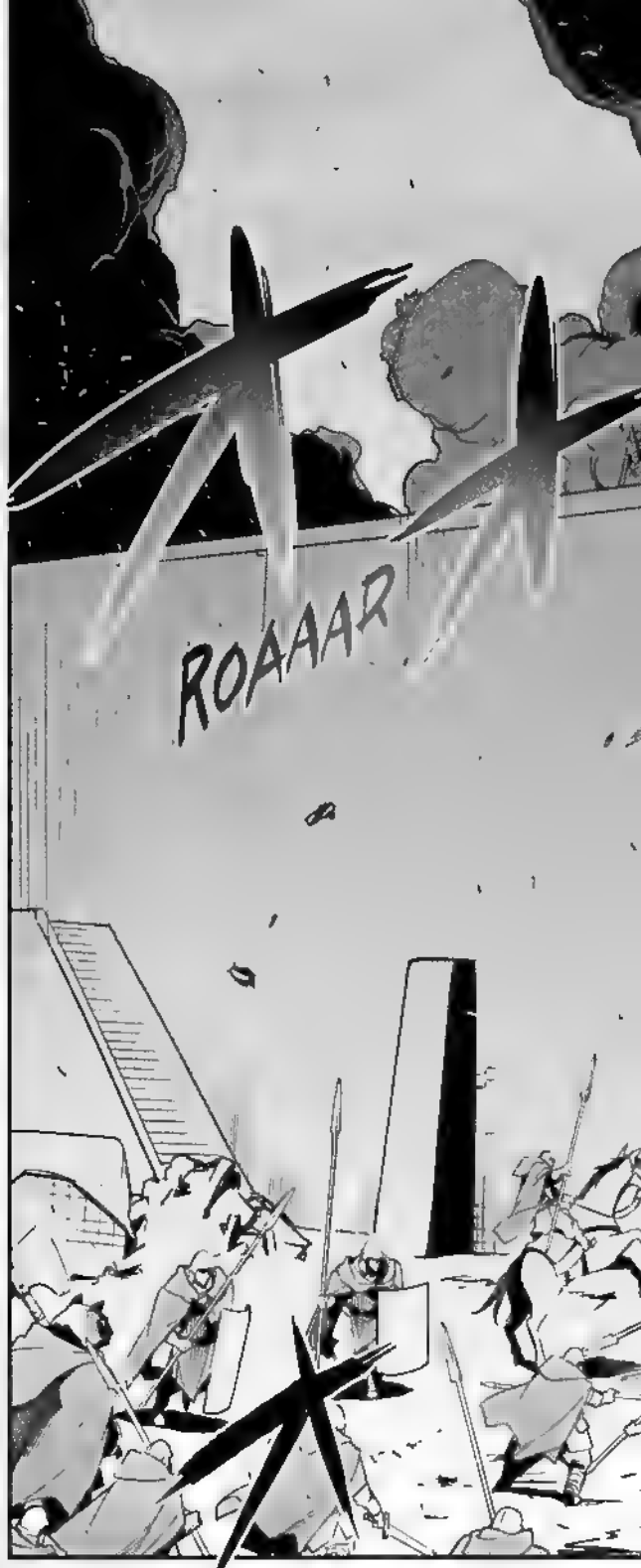
ROAAAR

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM
BOOM

YAAAAAHHH

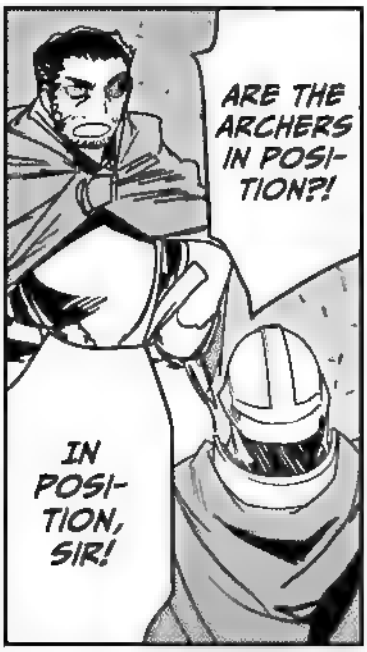

ROAAAR

MURMUR
MURMUR

BOOM
YAAAH
YAAAH

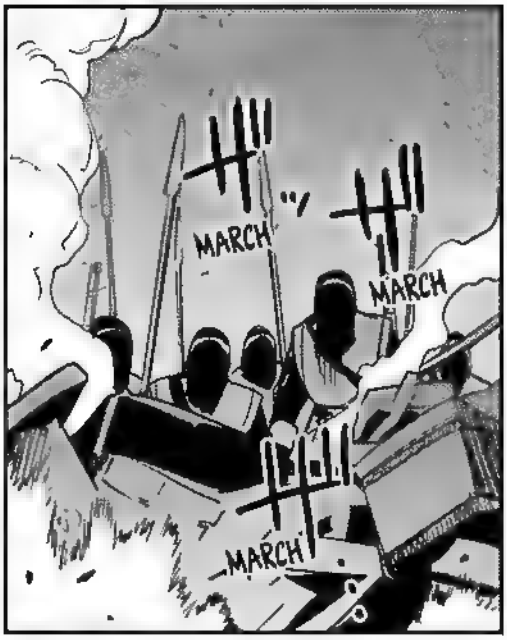
OOH
COLLAPSE THE SHOPS ON BOTH SIDES!
MAKE A BARRI-CADE!

KEEPING FIRING UNTIL YOU'RE OUT OF ARROWS!
SEAL ALL THE SIDE EN-TRANCES!
GATHER THE DE-FENDERS HERE!


ARE THE ARCHERS IN POSI-TION?!
IN POSI-TION, SIR!

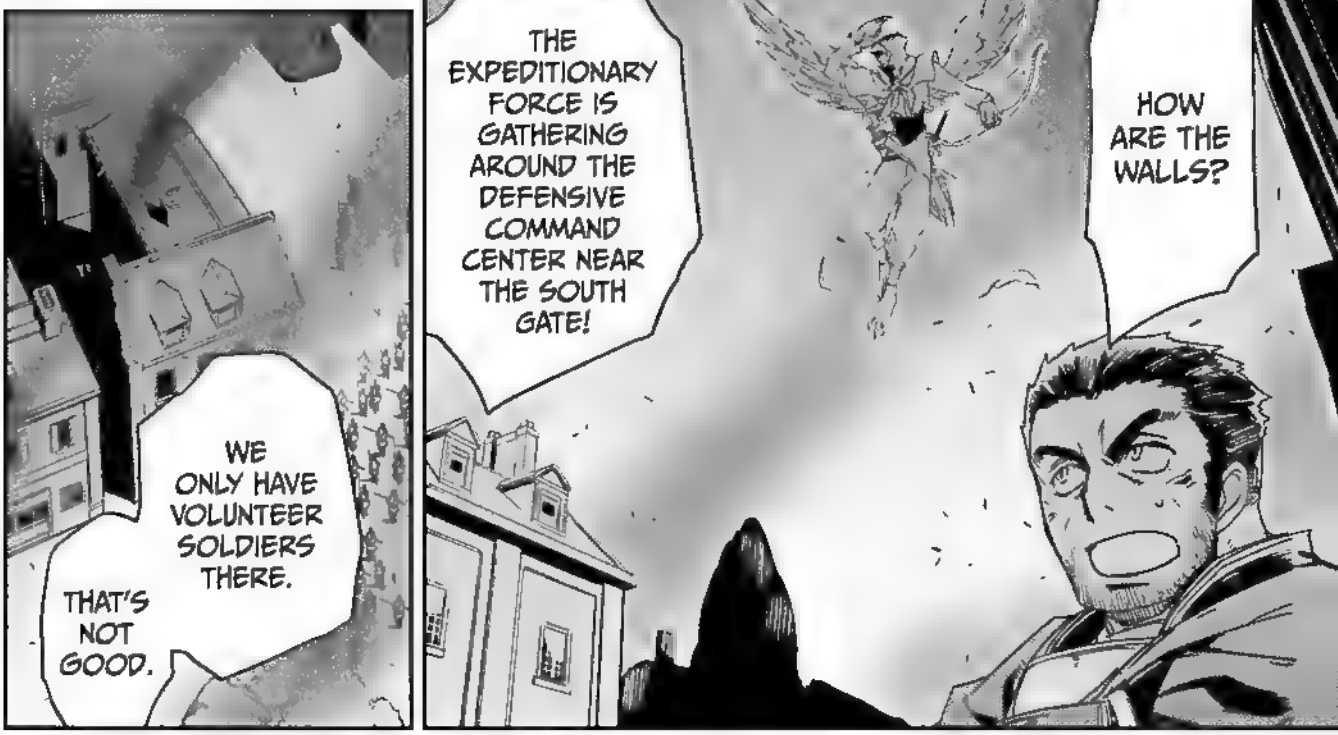
SLASH
STAB
CLING
WE HAVE AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION!
WE'LL BLOCK THE ROADS AND STOP THE ENEMY HERE!

THEY'RE SLOW TO DEPLOY...?
DID THEY NOT EXPECT THE SOUTH GATE TO EXPLODE, EITHER?


MARCH
MARCH
MARCH

WE CAN STILL PUSH THEM BACK!
YAAAAAHHH

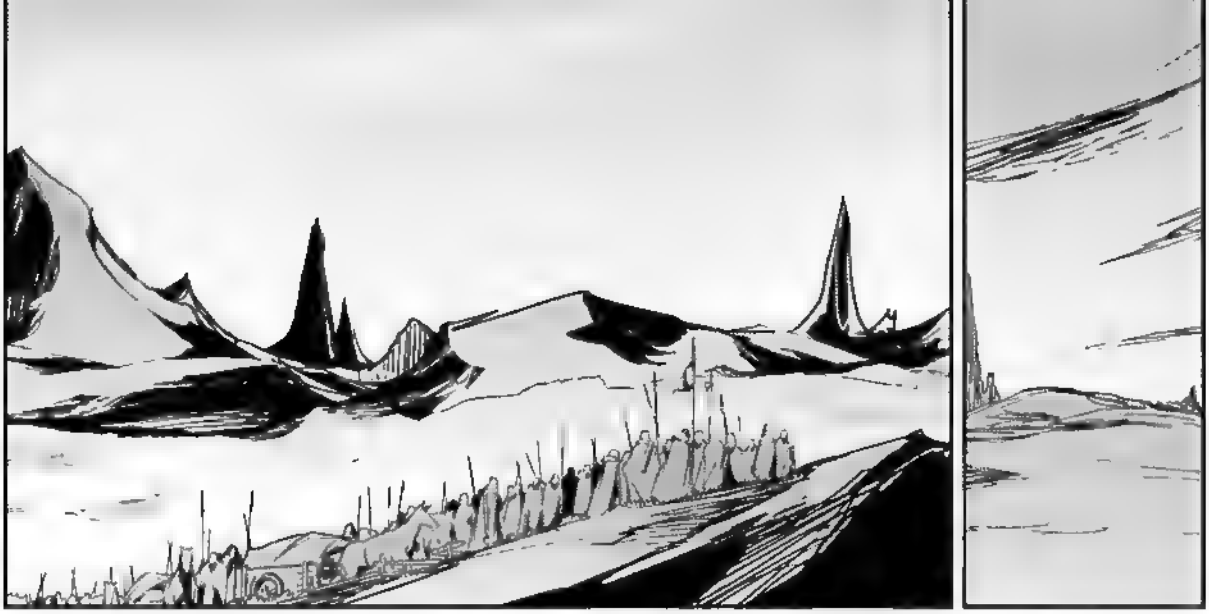
YAAAH
EITHER WAY, THEY'RE NOT CONTROLLED YET!
PUSH THEM BACK!


HOW ARE THE WALLS?
THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IS GATHERING AROUND THE DEFENSIVE COMMAND CENTER NEAR THE SOUTH GATE!
WE ONLY HAVE VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS THERE.
THAT'S NOT GOOD.

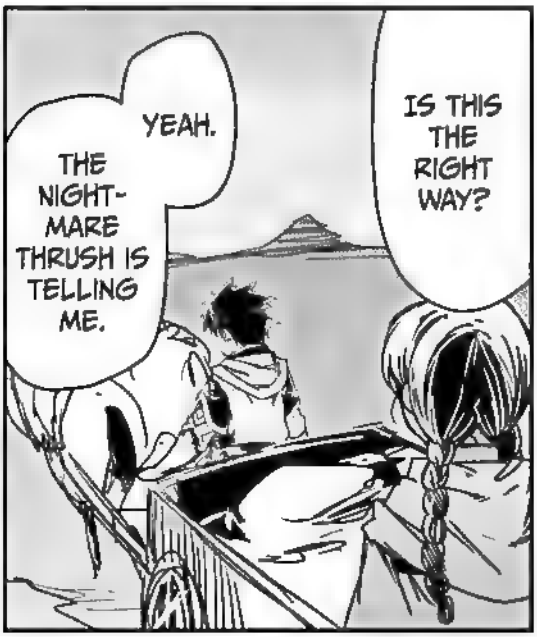
YAAAH
YAAAH
ROAR
おお
I'LL GO!
OGRE CALL SWORDS-MEN, WITH ME!
KACHINK

ROAR

...?!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WHOOSH
ゴオオオ
BOOM
ドオオー
THE BODIES OF THE MARTYRS BECAME FLOWERS OF THE EARTH...
...AND DE-STROYED THE WALLS OF THE DEMON QUEEN.
THEIR SOULS WILL BE CALLED TO THE SPIRIT...



IT SEEMS ARCHDUKE FIRE DRAGON HAS LEFT HIS TERRITORY.
THIS WILL MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR US.


IS THIS THE RIGHT WAY?
YEAH. THE NIGHT-MARE THRUSH IS TELLING ME.

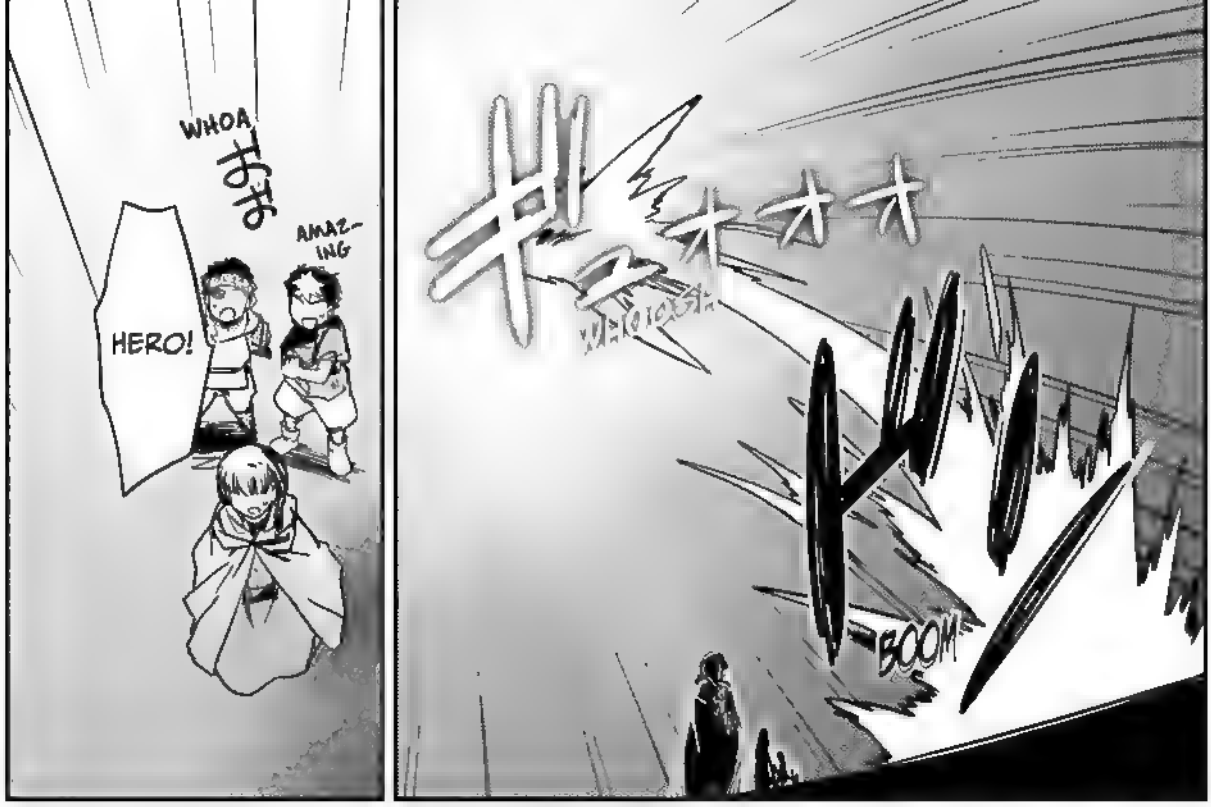
...!
WHAT'S WRONG?

SHUDDER

WE'LL PROBABLY RUN INTO HIM NEAR GATEWAY CITY.
THAT WILL SAVE US SOME TROUBLE.

DE-
STRUC-
TION.
SULFU-
ROUS
SMOKE.
BLOOD.
GUN-
POW-
DER?
EX-
PLO-
SIONS.
...
DEATH
?
WHAT?
IS THAT COMING FROM GATEWAY CITY?
IS THAT...
BLACK SMOKE ?!
CHATTER
WHAT IS THAT?
MURMUR
MURMUR
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT IS THIS BLACK STUFF?
IT'S DEAD.
IT'S DEAD.
...DIED...
SOME-
THING...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, STAND-IN?
LET'S HURRY.
INCREASE THE PACE.
I'M GOING TO SCOUT THE AREA!
GALLOP
WHAT'S GOING ON?
MURMUR
MURMUR
WHAT?
SORRY.
THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO WITH YOU.
WOOOM
SWOOSH


WHOA
AMAZ-ING
HERO!
BOOM

I BROKE MY PROMISE WITH...
...THE FEMALE MAGI-CIAN!
DAMN IT!
WHOOSH

I DON'T CARE ABOUT HER BONDAGE PLAY ANYMORE!
WHOOSH

I WON'T ALLOW IT!
BUT...
...I CAN'T STAND THIS!
WHOOSH

WHOOSH
THOSE KINDS OF ACTS!
DE-STROY-ING!
KILL-ING!
FWOOSH
I'M SICK OF THEM ALREADY!
WHOOSH
THE END
CHAPTER 51
It's What the Spirit Wants!

ON SUICIDE BOMB ATTACKS

Suicide bomb attacks that contradict natural instinct were born from the spur of the moment actions of soldiers who witnessed death amidst the extreme conditions of war.

Suicide bomb attacks conducted by soldiers carrying bombs were also carried about by the old Japanese armed forces against indestructible enemy weapons using their own force's weapons.

Suicide Attacks During War and Suicide Bomb Terrorist Attacks

In Japan, the special attack corps of the Pacific War are a famous example of suicide bomb attacks. These suicide attacks involved ramming enemy warships and facilities with planes and later other weapons and assumed the passengers would most likely be killed in action.

Suicide attacks may seem closely associated with Japan, but in actuality, there are examples of armies of other nations employing suicide attacks similar to Japan's. For example, during the final stages of World War II, the military situation for Germany had worsened, and an air force unit that would ram enemy heavy bombers known as the Elbe special attack force was temporarily formed. The Soviet Union that fought against Germany used suicide attacks at the start of the war to make up for the superiority of the exceptional German military planes.

However, the common theme across all these attacks is that their opponents were superior, and they could not think of an effective way to find a way out of the situation. Even in Japan, where suicide attacks were conducted systematically, the worsening military situation forced Japan to conduct the attacks, and they had not been actively conducted since the start of the war.

Also, pilots would sometimes spontaneously ram enemy planes and facilities when their planes were shot and the pilots judged it would be difficult to make it back alive, or to prevent an enemy attack against an ally. These cases exist in the American military and the armies of other Western nations. Under the extreme conditions of the front lines, soldiers of any nation facing imminent death seem to think, "I'm not going down without a fight."

Because humans are also animals, we have survival instincts. The aforementioned concepts apply under the relatively special circumstances of war, and typically humans do not choose to rush toward their own deaths.

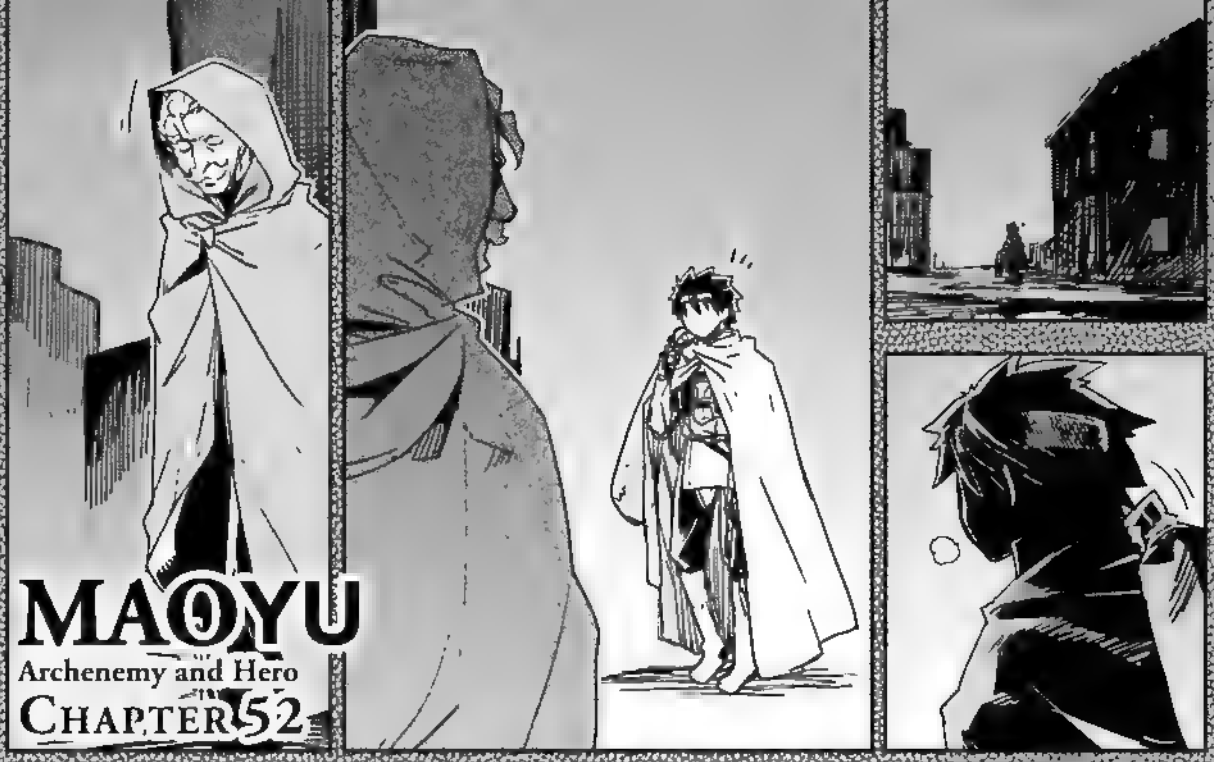
However, in the modern era, suicide bomb terrorist attacks are being carried out during times of peace. From the perspective of the victims, suicide bomb terrorist attacks are crimes that suddenly occur during one's everyday life and absolutely intolerable. However, this is only the victim's perspective. It is possible only the victims think the world is at peace while the terrorists are constantly in a state of war.

Wars were once conducted between countries, but the term "the war on terror" has risen during the modern era. This change may have brought about a new kind of suicide attack.

Running low on gunpowder for their cannons, the Holy Key Expeditionary Force successfully brought down the walls of Gateway City using the suicide bomb attacks of its soldiers

INVESTMENT

MOST OF THEM FLED TO THE FOREST AND SOUGHT SHELTER WITH THE FAIRIES...
...OR HERE WITH US IN THE BLAZING MOUNTAIN RANGE.
WE GOT THIS DONE BECAUSE THEY LENT US THEIR STRENGTH.
GOOD WORK.
WE FINISHED ISSUING TRANSPORTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GOODS.
THEY'RE REFUGEES FROM GATEWAY CITY.
I'M SURPRISED YOU WERE ABLE TO GATHER THE NECESSARY PERSONNEL
THAT MERCHANT AND SELF-PROFESSED DEMON KING...
WHAT IS HE THINKING?
EITHER WAY, A THOUSAND WAGONS...


MAOYU
Archenemy and Hero
CHAPTER 52

I'M GOING.
ALL RIGHT.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP ME?
I'M THINKING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD.
IT MAKES ME THINK WE MAY BE BURDENING...
...OR CONSTRAINING YOU AFTER ALL.
Z Z

Chapter 52 Archenemy and Hero
There is an "End" to Gateway City

...PERHAPS THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME TO ASK...
...BUT WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD? WHY HAVE YOU ALLIED YOURSELF WITH HUMANKIND?
....
BECAUSE I'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO.

I'M PROBABLY NOT HUMAN.
AFTER ALL, HUMANS AREN'T KIND TO ME.
BUT WHEN I CONSIDER WHAT I AM IF NOT HUMAN...
...THEN I GUESS I'M THE HERO.
BECAUSE I WASN'T BORN HUMAN...
...I'M NOT SURE WHY THEY HATE ME, THOUGH.
ALL I KNOW IS...
...HUMANS DON'T SEEM TO LIKE ANY-THING THAT'S NOT HUMAN.
....

I DON'T HAVE A REASON TO SAVE THEM, BUT...
BUT...
...DE-SPITE EVERY-THING...
...I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO HATE...
... EVERY-THING.

AFTER ALL...
...THEY'RE ALL GREAT PEOPLE.
IT'S JUST THAT...
...THEY DON'T SHOW ME THAT KIND-NESS OR WARMTH.
THEY'RE KIND AND WARM.

IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS, THE OLD MAN SAID EVERY-THING HAD BALANCED OUT...
...BUT THERE'S MORE THAN JUST HAPPINESS THERE.
IT JUST BALANCES OUT.
HUMANS ARE FOR THE MOST PART BASI-CALLY GOOD PEOPLE.

IT'S A SET MENU WITH ONLY TWO CHOICES...
..."TAKE EVERY-THING" OR "TAKE NOTHING."
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND THAT'S THE WAY THINGS SEEM TO BE.
IT'S ALL A MOSAIC.
A CONTRAST OF WHITE AND BLACK.
THERE'S NO WAY...
...TO HAVE JUST WHITE OR JUST BLACK.
HERO...
...SO NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL IT MIGHT BE FOR ME...
...I CAN'T BREAK THIS WORLD THAT'S IMPORTANT TO SOMEONE.

WHEN I'M WITH YOU AND THE GIRLS...
...IT'S FUN BECAUSE I FEEL SORT OF HUMAN.
THAT'S WHY I'M OFF TO DEFEAT...
...THE DEMON QUEEN.
I'VE RECEIVED ENOUGH HAPPINESS TO DO THAT...
...FROM YOU THREE.
BESIDES ...
...I DO WANT TO BE POPULAR.
I CAN'T HELP BUT HAVE EXPECTA-TIONS.
OF COURSE.
YOUTH IS ALL ABOUT EXPECTA-TIONS.
BECAUSE I'M A VIRGIN
YOU CER-TAINLY ARE
HEH HEH HEH HEH

...EVEN I MIGHT FIND SOMEONE TO ASK ME...
...TO BE THEIRS.
SO...
...SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY...
I CAN'T HELP BUT HOPE IT'LL HAPPEN...
...BECAUSE I'M AN IDIOT.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
MEANING OF WHAT?
OH?
BLUE ASH KING.
STEP 00/

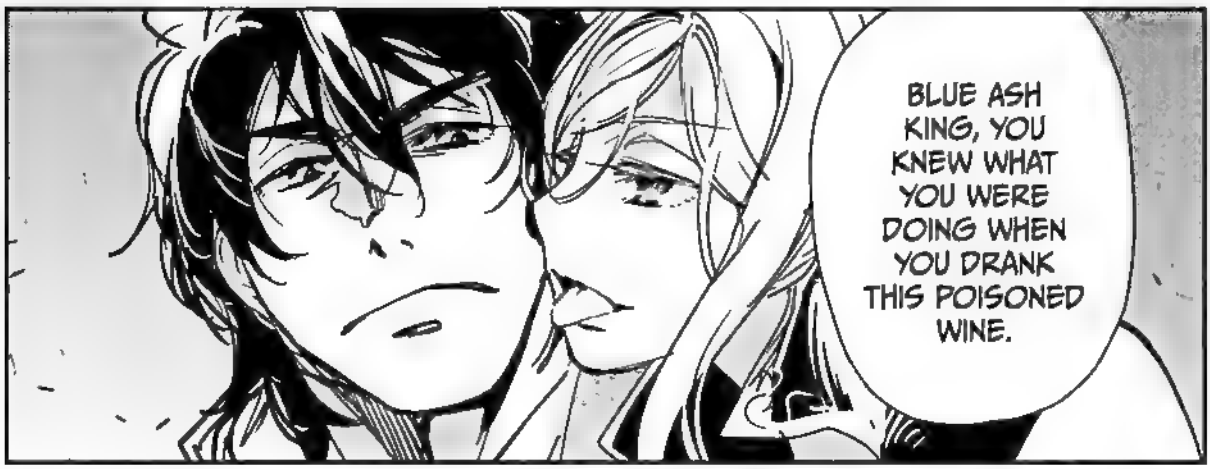
WHY DID YOU HAVE THEM CONDUCT SUCH A DEFENSE-LESS AND MEANINGLESS ATTACK?!
HAVING THE FOOT SOLDIERS CHARGE AS A GROUP IS SHEER FOLLY!
SNICKER
SNICKER
SNICKER
NOT TO MEN-TION...
...THAT SUICIDAL ATTACK...
IMPOS-SIBLE...
THE ARCH-BISHOP CHOSE TO USE AND DISCARD HIS FOLLOWERS ...?
IT'S A DIRECT ORDER FROM THE ARCH-BISHOP HIMSELF.
THEIR SACRIFICE IS PROOF OF THEIR FAITH IN THE SPIRIT.

USE AND DISCARD? NO.
THEY ARE NOBLE SACRI-FICES.
BESIDES ...
...HIS GRACE GRIEVES FOR THEIR SACRIFICE AS WELL.
CIGGLE
CIGGLE
CIGGLE
CIGGLE

IN ORDER TO TAKE ON A FRACTION OF THEIR SUFFERING HIMSELF..
...HE GOUGED OUT HIS OWN EYES.

...!!

CARESS
SNICKER
SNICKER
SUCH NON-SENSE.
...THE ETERNAL BLESSINGS OF THE SPIRIT.
THE SOLDIERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO HEAVEN ARE NO DOUBT ENJOYING...


BLUE ASH KING, YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING WHEN YOU DRANK THIS POISONED WINE.

GIGGLE
GIGGLE
THAT TRULY IS NON-SENSE.
ARE YOU SAYING A NOBLEMAN LIKE YOURSELF HAS FEELINGS FOR THIS FEMALE SERVANT?
...A WOMAN I DIDN'T LOVE TO DECEIVE ANYONE.
I'VE NEVER SLEPT WITH...

WHY DON'T WE ENVELOPE THAT CITY IN FLAMES...
...AND USE IT TO ILLUMINATE OUR FUTURE?

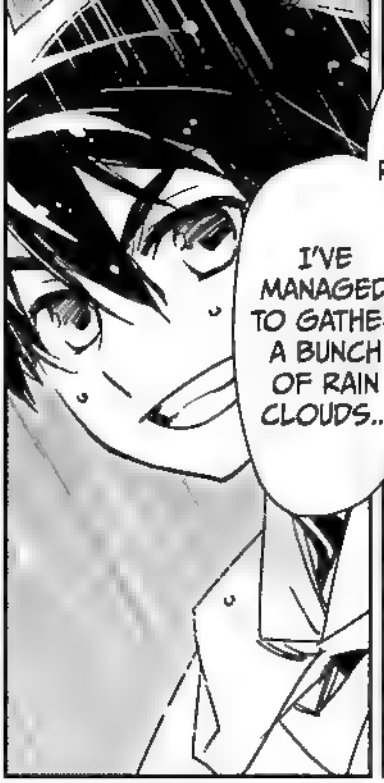
THERE'S NO GETTING OFF.
WE'RE ALREADY RIDING THE SAME SHIP...
...KNOWN AS THE HOLY KEY EXPEDI-TIONARY FORCE.

PITTER
PATTER

...
RAIN?

WHOOSH

THRUSH!
WHERE'S THE DEMON QUEEN?!
I DON'T KNOW!


ALL RIGHT.
I'VE MANAGED TO GATHER A BUNCH OF RAIN CLOUDS...

WHOOSH

STAY BACK.
F.WOOSH
YES, SIR.

BUT...
...A SECTION OF THE WALL HAS BEEN BROKEN!
THE HOLY KEY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SEEMS TO HAVE ENTERED GATEWAY CITY!

SPLISHHH

YOU CAN'T USE ANY OF YOUR HERO POWERS.
THERE'S SOMEONE TARGETING THEM.
NO HERO CHARMS, EITHER.
NO DIS-PLACE-MENT.
NO HIGHER LEVEL CHARMS.

UNTIL THE VERY END, YOU CAN'T USE YOUR POWERS.
OTHER-WISE ...
...THERE WON'T BE ANYONE LEFT TO STOP IT.

WHOOOSH
FEMALE MAGICIAN ...
I'M SORRY!
BUT...

SPLISHHH

"STORM SUM-MONING CHARM!"

RUMBLE

FLASH

FLASH

SLASH THROUGH THE AIR AND SUM-MON BLACK CLOUDS!

THUN-DER!

CREATE A BARRIER WITH A DOWN-POUR THAT ENVELOPES ALL!

RRRUMBLE

...IF I DON'T PROTECT EVERY-ONE?!

...HOW CAN I BE A HERO...

...HOW CAN I BE A HERO...
...IF I DON'T PROTECT EVERY-ONE?!
THUN-DER!
SLASH THROUGH THE AIR AND SUM-MON BLACK CLOUDS!
FLASH
CREATE A BARRIER WITH A DOWN-POUR THAT ENVELOPES ALL!
RRRUMBL

SPLISHHH
RUMBLE
"STORM SUM-MONING CHARM!"
FLASH

SIZZLE
HISS
RAIN?
MURMUR
...HUH?
SPLISHH
SPLISHHH

ROAR
THE MUSKETS ...!
SPLISHHH
HISSS
OOH
HUH?
WHAT...?
MURMUR

SPLISHHH
WHAT?
...HE MADE HIS MOVE.

HAVE THEM CONDUCT THE PRAYER WE'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR SOME TIME.
YES, SIR!
GATHER THE PRIESTS IMMEDIATELY.
ALL OF THEM.
I THOUGHT I'D BE OPENING THE GATES WITH THE DEMON QUEEN'S HEAD...
...BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH I USE ANYMORE.
ROLL
UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THIS MUCH "DEATH," HE'S BEEN LURED HERE.
HEH HEH HEH
ROLL
ROLL
ROAR
NO.
USING THE "HERO" WILL BE EVEN BETTER.
HEH HEH HEH
SLURP
I SHALL MASTER HIS POWER AS WELL.

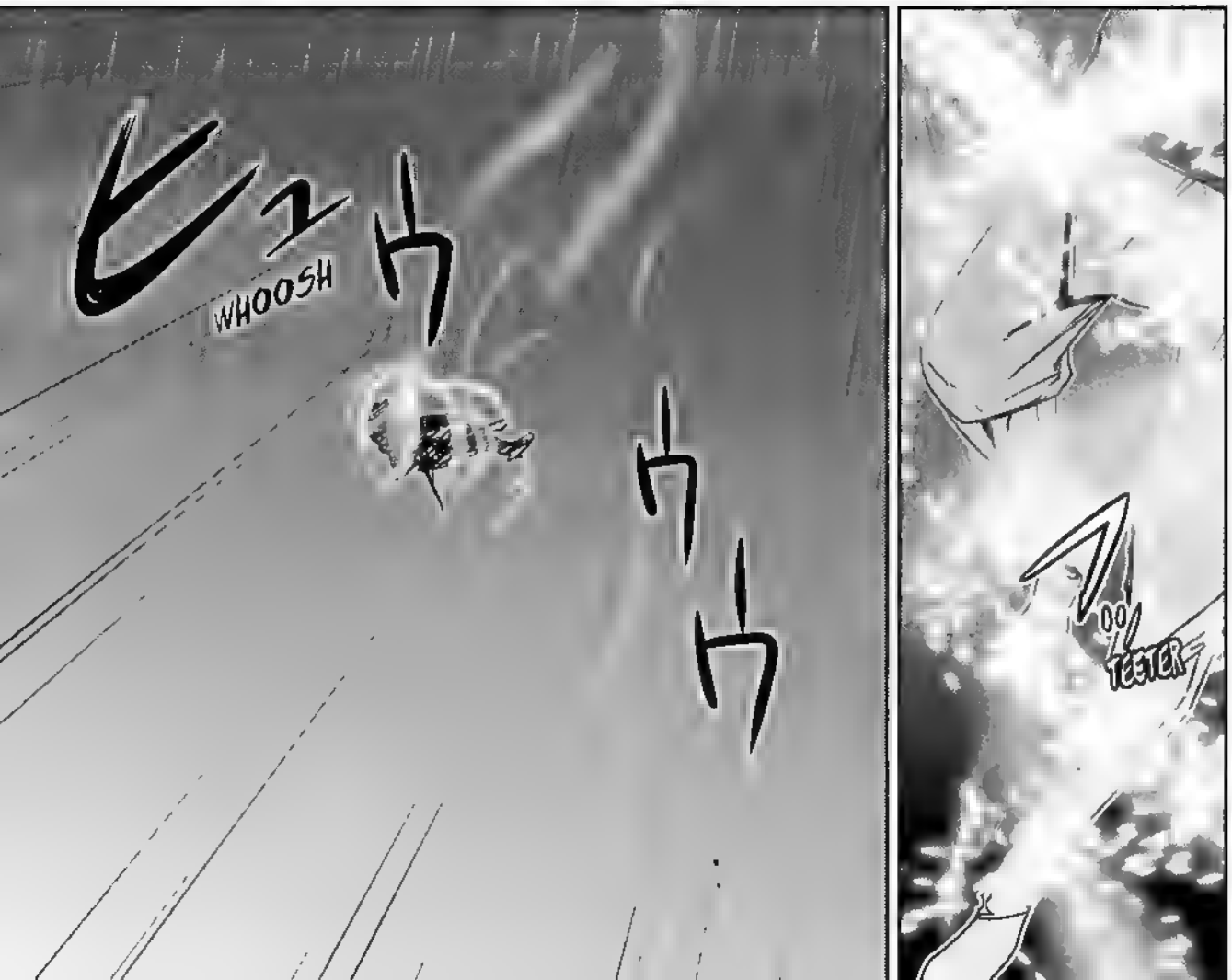
HUMMMMM
SPLISHHH
RUSTLE

RUMBLE

PANT
PANT
... THERE.
FWOOSH

MY STRENGTH ...
...IS BEING SUCKED OUT OF...
FWOOSH
WHAT...
WHAT...
...IS THIS?
FWOOSH

RUN.
THRUSH ...
MASTER!


WHOOSH
TESTER

BOOM
MAS-
TER!

SPLISHHH
...DEMON QUEEN.
SPLISHHH

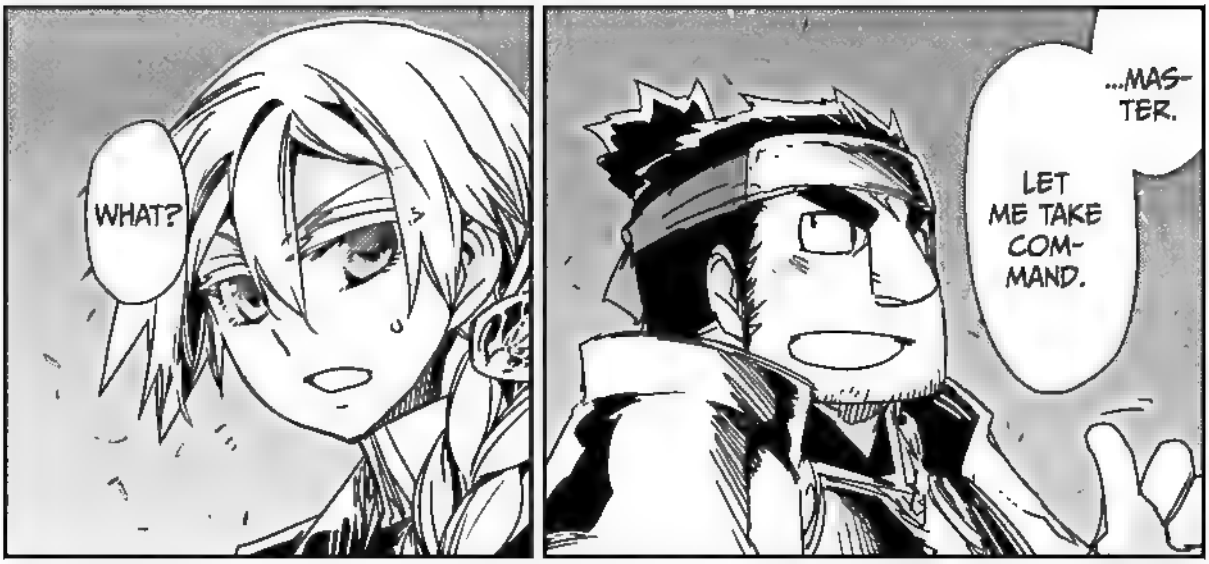
BOOM..KABOOM
BOOM

....

MEDICAL UNITS IN POSI-TION!
ROAR
KEEP 50 PACES BETWEEN THE WAGONS!
DON'T FORGET TO POSITION THE IRON SHIELDS WHEN WE REACH THE FRONT LINES!
RUSTLE

HURRY!
WE CAN STILL USE THE HORSES!

I JUST...
...HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
WHAT'S WRONG?
NEVER MIND.
IT'S NOTHING.
FORWARD!
WE'LL USE THIS TIME TO MOVE INTO AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION!
STEP
THIS DISTANCE ...
THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO INTIMIDATE US!
WE'VE REACHED THE FRONT LINES!
THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE'S MUSKETS HAVE OPENED FIRE!
HMM?
OH.
SORRY.
WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL!
MASTER?
LOCK THE WAGONS IN PLACE WITH BUMPERS!
OKAY!
STEP


WHAT?
...MAS-
TER.
LET
ME TAKE
COM-
MAND.

....
...BE-
COME.
...ABOUT
WHAT I
CAN...
I'VE
BEEN
THINK-
ING...

...I CAN
STILL
HOLD
THINGS
DOWN
HERE.
BUT...
I CAN'T BE
LIKE YOU OR
THE OTHERS.

POINT

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION LEADS THE VAN HERE.
THIS IS WHERE I, THE IRON LORD PROTECTOR, BELONG.

YOU...

I'M SURE...
...THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU IN THAT CITY!
YOU BELONG IN THAT CITY.

WHEN HIS SOUL SCREAMS ...
THE TIME TO GO IS NOW!
...IS WHEN A KNIGHT MUST FULFILL HIS DUTY!
THAT IS WHAT YOU TAUGHT ME!

JUMP
NOD
MASTER KNIGHT!
WE'LL BE OKAY HERE.
GOOD LUCK!
I AM GRATE-FUL!
MY AP-PREN-TICE!
YOU STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN!
ONCE THIS IS OVER, I'LL HAVE TO WORK YOU HARD AGAIN!
YOU'D BETTER NOT GO AND DIE ON ME!

AND I HOPE YOU'LL TRAIN ME AGAIN.
...THE CITY...
...AND ITS PEOPLE ARE IN YOUR HANDS.
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU.
WHAT?
HE FELL.
COULD IT BE?
THE HERO ...
HE CAN BE CAPTURED WITH THE BLESSED MUSKETS ...
...AND A COMPANY OF KNIGHTS...
...HE IS NO STRONGER THAN A SINGLE SKILLED KNIGHT.
AS LONG AS THE PRAYER CONTINUES ...
THE HERO FELL.
TRAPPED IN THE PRAYER'S BARRIER... HE FELL TO THE BATTLE-FIELD.

...!
WHAT ?!
IN THE NAME OF THE SPIRIT, THE CHURCH BRANDS HIM A HERETIC.
THE HERO BETRAYED THE SPIRIT OF LIGHT.
DIRECTING THUNDERBOLTS AGAINST THE SPIRIT'S EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IS PROOF OF THAT...
LISTEN TO ME.
YOU MUST CAPTURE HIM.
IN FACT, HAVE HIM...
... KILLED.
CHUCKLE...
BUT ...
... YOU MUST ...
... BRING BACK HIS HEAD ...
....
SHUDDER
YES, SIR!
SALUTE
GO.
GO AND SPREAD THE SPIRIT'S MIGHT FAR AND WIDE.
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

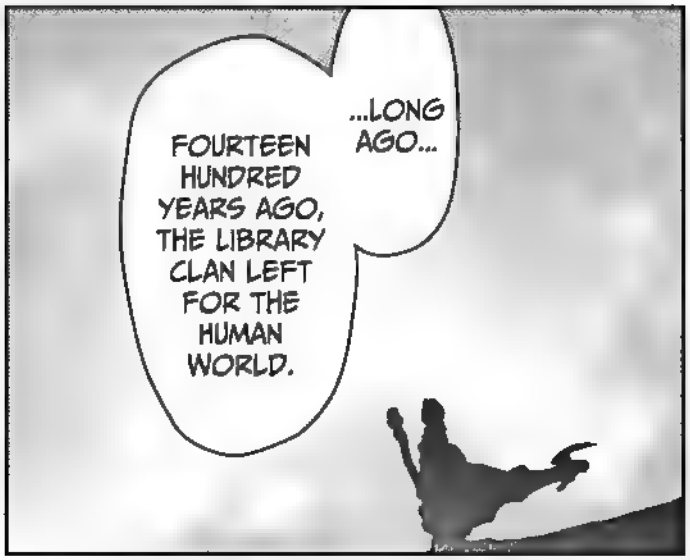
ROLL
IT'S SETTLING IN.
SETTLING IN.
HEH
SLIP
HA HA HA
I FEEL...
...ITS POWER RISING...
MARCH
MARCH
MARCH
...I AM THE ARCH-BISHOP.
... BEARER OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS.
...I WILL BE THE LAST ONE STANDING.
RRRUMBLE
THE ONE TO LEAD THE WORLD ...
...AND BESTOW UPON THE PEOPLE ...
...RIGHTEOUS INTENTION...

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
BRING ME THE CORPSE OF THE HERO!
AD-VANCE...
FOL-LOWERS OF THE LIGHT.
HA
HA

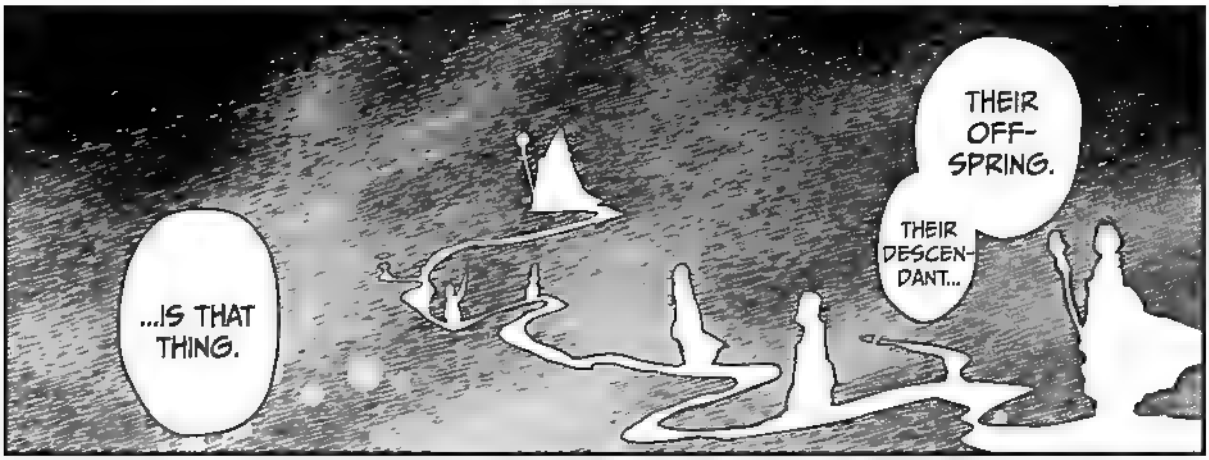
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, HE'S NOT HUMAN!
A HUMAN COULD NEVER POSSESS SUCH HORRIFYING POWER!

WHO IS THAT MAN?

...WHAT IS THAT?


...LONG AGO...
FOURTEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE LIBRARY CLAN LEFT FOR THE HUMAN WORLD.

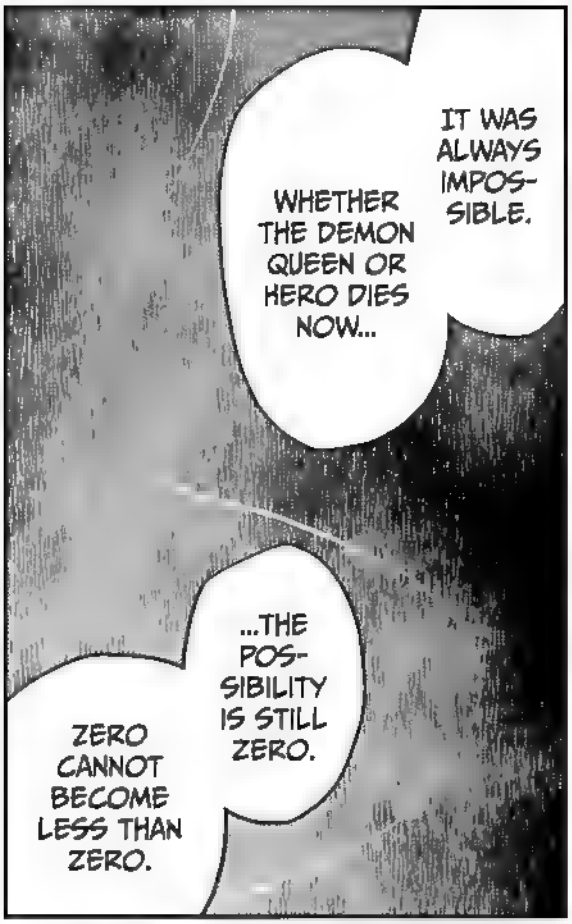
A STAIN.
...ONE CLAN'S MISTAKE.


...IS THAT THING.
THEIR DESCEN-DANT...
THEIR OFF-SPRING.

...ARE TRYING TO DO.
THAT THING IS ANOTHER SIDE OF WHAT THE DEMON QUEEN AND HERO...

HE'S ONE OF US?
THE LIBRARY CLAN?
IMPOS-SIBLE...

I MUST SAVE THEM!
GRAB
THE DEMON QUEEN IS HEADED FOR JAWS OF DEATH.
THE HERO IS DYING.
WHERE IS THE DEMON QUEEN?!
WHERE IS THE HERO ?!
WHY DO YOU STOP ME?
SO I WON'T LET YOU GO.
HE SAID HE WOULD PAY ANY PRICE.
THE HERO SAID HE WOULD RISK EVERYTHING.


IT WAS ALWAYS IMPOSSIBLE.
WHETHER THE DEMON QUEEN OR HERO DIES NOW...
...THE POSSIBILITY IS STILL ZERO.
ZERO CANNOT BECOME LESS THAN ZERO.

YOU EXAMINE THE CIRCUIT.
I REPAIR IT.
THOSE ARE OUR ROLES.
THESE ARE ABSOLUTE.

IT WAS ALWAYS IMPOSSIBLE.
"THAT MUCH" ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

IF IT'S TRUE, THEY'LL SURVIVE.
RATHER...
...EVEN IF THEY DIE, THEY'LL COME BACK TO LIFE.

DESPITE THAT...
...THEY BOTH SMILED AND IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED...
...THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER AND THAT THEY WOULD RISK EVERYTHING.

ALL OF GATEWAY CITY IS AN ALTAR OF LIVING SACRIFICES.
BY EITHER THE HERO OR THE DEMON QUEEN POURING ALL THEIR POWER INTO IT...
...AND ENDING THEIR LIVES, IT ACTIVATES.

A BRIDGE TO THE SKY.
A SKY TOWER MECHA-NISM.
A DEVICE OF DESTRUCTION THAT THROUGH THE DEATH OF ONE, LEADS THE OTHER TO THE "END."
IT IS THE SCENERY OF THE END SUMMONED BY THE END AND NECESSARY TO END.

THEIR GAMBLE ALWAYS REQUIRED FIVE OR SIX MIRACLES TO WORK.
THAT'S WHY I WON'T LEAVE THIS PLACE.

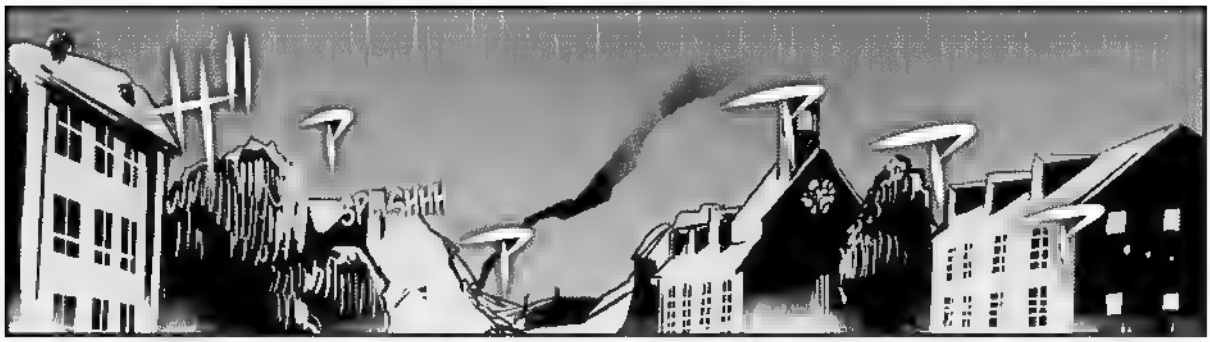
DESPITE ALL THIS...
...THEY INTEND TO REJECT THAT "END."

THIS WORLD IS OVER-FLOWING WITH MIRACLES.
THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME, SO I BELIEVE IT...
...NO MATTER HOW PRE-POSTEROUS IT SOUNDS.

THE HERO ASKED ME FOR A MIRACLE.

THE DEMON QUEEN SAID THAT?
SHE DID.
SO I ASK YOU TO BELIEVE AS WELL...
...THAT SOME MIRACLE WE'RE UNAWARE OF WILL SAVE THEM BOTH.
VERY WELL.
THAT'S FINE, THEN.
IF THE DEMON QUEEN SAID SO, IT MUST BE TRUE.
I WILL BELIEVE HER.
AFTER ALL, SHE'S ONE WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN MIRACLES...
...BUT MAKES MIRACULOUS JOKES DESPITE IT.

I AM HER MAID.
ONE WHO CAUSES MIRACLES TO SAVE HER MISTRESS.



THE FIRE STAFFS THEY USE SEEM TO BE WEAK TO WATER.
THE RAIN HAS BLUNTED THEIR ATTACK COMPLETELY.
WHY DID IT SUDDENLY START RAINING?
...OH.
...SO...
...UN-USU-AL.
CLANG
WE'RE SAVED.
YEAH.
CLANG

IS THE AREA AROUND THE SOUTH GATE...
...STILL OCCUPIED BY HUMANS?
... THEY'RE THERE.
...I SEE THEM.
カン CLANG
カン CLANG
...WE NEED TO REPAIR AS MUCH AS WE CAN WHILE WE HAVE THE CHANCE.
YEAH ...
I CAN SEE A FEW BONFIRES.
I SEE THEM PLUNDERING SHOPS TOO.
... SORRY.
IT'S A NORMAL PART OF WAR.
THEY'RE HUMAN LIKE ME.
ROAR
おおお
カン CLANG
カン CLANG
WE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE WALLS...
...AND BUILD SOME BARRICADES QUICKLY!
TAKE TURNS TAKING BREAKS!

YOUNG MUSICIAN... WHERE ARE YOU...?
ARE YOU STILL IN THE HUMAN WORLD?
WITH THESE MAKESHIFT DEFENSES, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEND AGAINST AN EARNEST ATTACK.
...THEY COULD LAY WASTE TO GATEWAY CITY TOMORROW.

I HOPE YOU'RE IN A PEACEFUL PLACE UNTOUCHED BY THE FLAMES OF WAR.

DEMON QUEEN!
JUMP

WE'RE IN A RUINED HOUSE IN GATEWAY CITY.
THE NIGHT-MARE THRUSH BROUGHT US HERE.
WHERE ARE WE?!
WHAT ABOUT THE WAR?!
CALM DOWN.
UGH!
OW!
SOLDIERS ON BOTH SIDES ARE IN HIDING.
THEY WON'T COME HERE.
NEITHER SIDE'S ARMY CAN MOVE UNTIL MORNING.
AND WE'RE AWAY FROM THE CENTER OF THE BATTLEFIELD.
WE'RE OKAY FOR NOW.

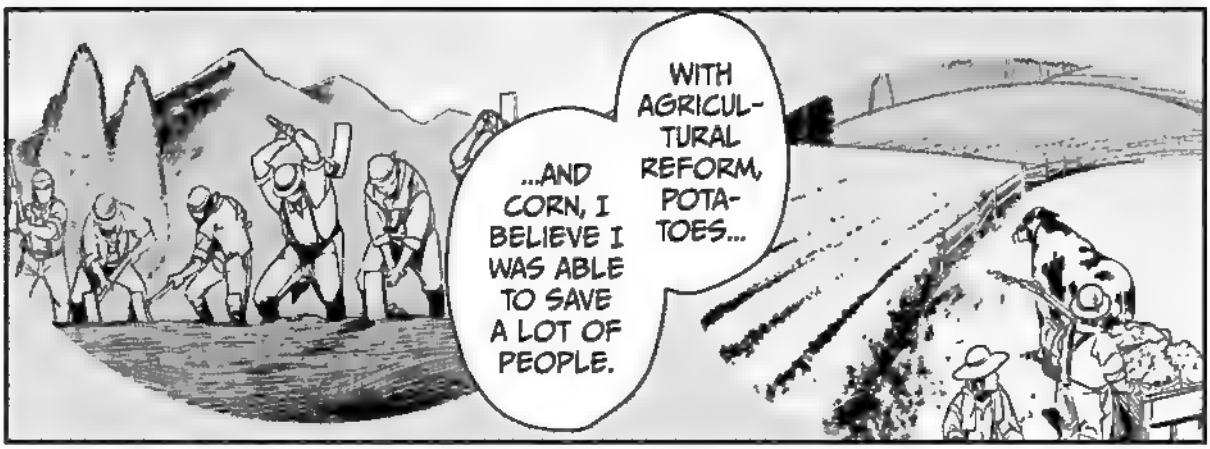
...BUT...
...THE END IS COMING.
DON'T SAY THAT.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT I'VE BEEN HIDING FROM YOU.
I WANTED TO SEE THE "OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL"...
...BUT THE "OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL" IS THE "OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL," AND NOT THE "END"...
?
HERO, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE "END" IS?

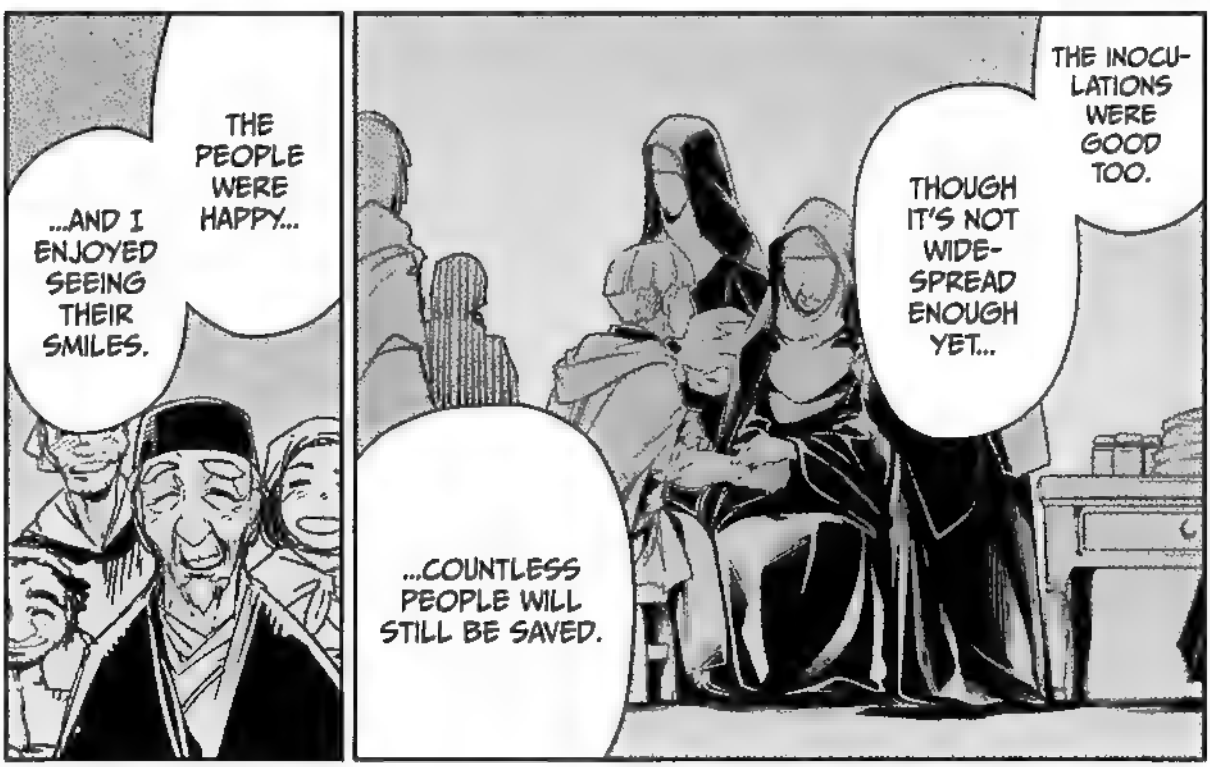
FOR ME, I THINK THE FIRST END...
...WAS WHEN I MET YOU.
THE "END" IS LITERALLY THE CONCLUSION.
NOTH-ING LIES BEYOND IT.
IT IS THE END OF ALL THINGS.
...THAT'S PROB-ABLY...
...ONE KIND OF "END."
YOUR SWORD COULD HAVE PIERCED MY CHEST, AND I WOULD HAVE STOPPED BREATHING.
ENDING THERE...
...IS PROBABLY WHAT WAS SUP-POSED TO HAPPEN.
BUT I REJECTED THAT...
...AND TRAVELED WITH YOU IN SEARCH OF A DIFFERENT TOMORROW.

WE DID ALL KINDS OF THINGS...
WHAT AN UNBELIEVABLY AMAZING JOURNEY THIS HAS BEEN.
I TOLD YOU BE-FORE...
...BUT I'VE SEEN MOST OF THE "OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL" THAT I'D BEEN STRIV-ING FOR.

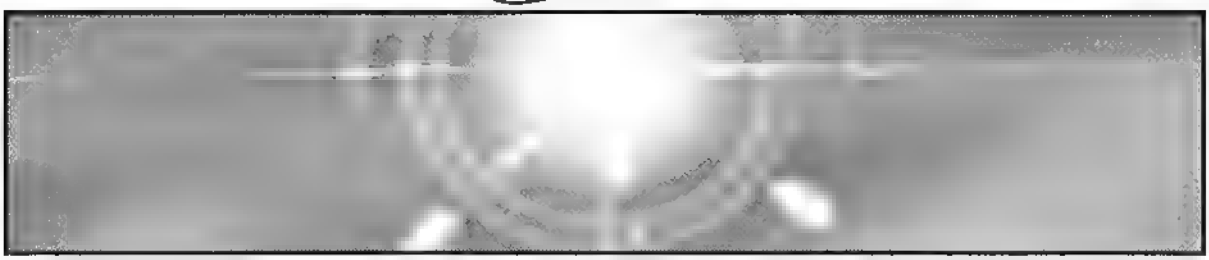
BEYOND THE HILL IS A NEW TOMORROW AND ALL KINDS OF TECHNOLOGIES.
TECH-NOLOGY MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY.
BUT BE-CAUSE I AM SO GREEDY...
...ONCE I CLIMB ONE HILL, I WANT TO CLIMB THE NEXT.
FOR EXAMPLE, AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY GENERATED LOTS OF PRODUCE...
...MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT A SURPLUS POPULATION...
...AND THE OVER-FLOWING WEALTH AWAKENED EVEN MORE DESIRE.
BUT THE TECHNOLO-GIES BORN THIS WAY...
BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE DIED.
THE GUN-POWDER TECHNOLOGY RELEASED MILITARY AMBITIONS...
...AND EVEN BROUGHT ABOUT THIS MASSIVE EX-PEDITIONARY FORCE.

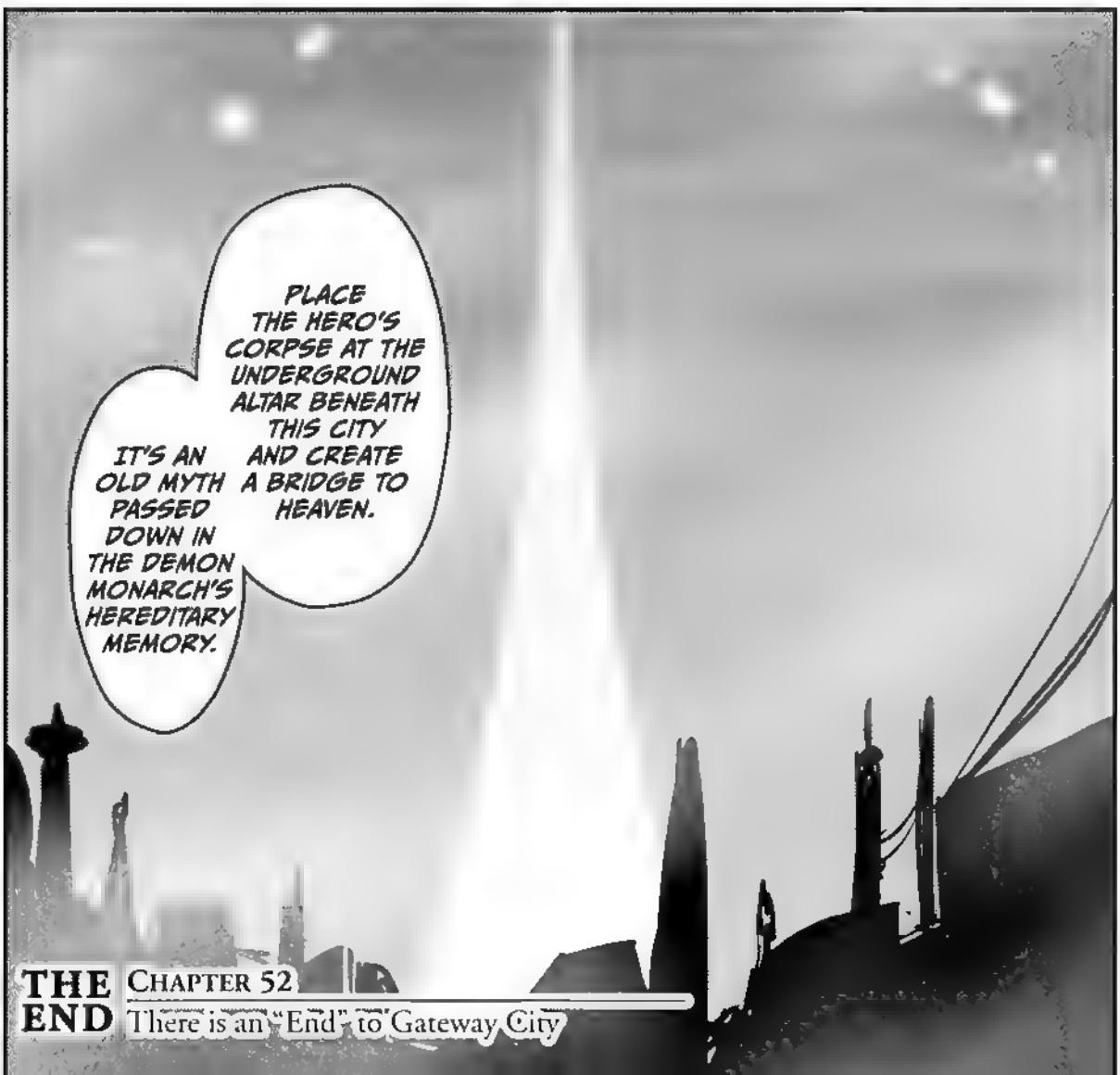
THIS PAIN IN MY CHEST IS NOT REGRET.
SO I HAVE NO REGRETS ...
...TO-GETH-ER.
...LET'S GO...
AFTER ALL, YOU TOLD ME...
I HAVE NO REGRETS.


...AND CORN, I BELIEVE I WAS ABLE TO SAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE.
WITH AGRICUL-TURAL REFORM, POTA-TOES...


...AND I ENJOYED SEEING THEIR SMILES.
THE PEOPLE WERE HAPPY...
...COUNTLESS PEOPLE WILL STILL BE SAVED.
THOUGH IT'S NOT WIDE-SPREAD ENOUGH YET...
THE INOCU-LATIONS WERE GOOD TOO.

THE PLANS AND TECH-NOLOGIES I THOUGHT OF TO DO GOOD...
...ULTIMATELY BRING ABOUT DISASTER.
...AND YOU LOSE CONTROL.
THE BRAKES BEGIN TO STOP WORKING...
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.
HOW DID I BECOME SUCH A WEAK AND EXTRAVAGANT PERSON?
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T MIND, BUT...
BUT STILL...
...BUT BETRAYING THOSE SMILES MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN CUT TO THE CORE.
I DIDN'T START DOING THIS FOR GRATI-TUDE...
STILL...
STILL THE END WILL COME SOME-WHERE.
AFTER ALL, THERE'S NOTHING THAT DOESN'T END.



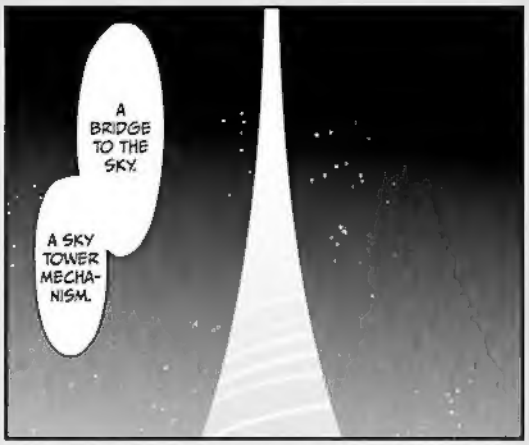

PLACE THE HERO'S CORPSE AT THE UNDERGROUND ALTAR BENEATH THIS CITY AND CREATE A BRIDGE TO HEAVEN.
IT'S AN OLD MYTH PASSED DOWN IN THE DEMON MONARCH'S HEREDITARY MEMORY.

THE END

Chapter 52
There is an "End" to Gateway City

ON ALTARS

Altars have been essential to ceremonies since ancient times. Their form varies by culture and region, but they are all a special place for worshipers to face the object of their faith.



The Female Magician claims all of Gateway City is an altar of living sacrifices. If this is true, then what are they being offered to?

ALTARS: A PLACE TO FACE THE OBJECT OF ONE'S FAITH

Since ancient times, humans have worshiped all manner of things including supernatural entities such as gods, spirits, and the souls of the dead, animals such as cows and snakes, and even boulders. The platform for making offerings to the objects of their worship is the altar.

The shape and material of altars vary by region, culture, and religion. In underdeveloped and ancient times, simple rugs such as those made from animal skins laid on the ground, natural stones shaped like platforms or boards, mounds of dirt, and piles of stones were all used at altars. After technology developed, wood and metal altars began appearing as well. Furthermore, temples were erected to serve as permanent places for gods to live.

If we look at familiar religions in Japan, in Christianity, the platform decorated with engravings or draped with cloth at the front of the inside of the church is the altar. Though they were once made of wood or metal, stone is the standard material for these altars.

In Buddhism, stands for enshrining Buddhist images and family altars inside the house are the most representative examples. The shelves erected temporarily during the Obon festival to welcome one's ancestors and spirits are altars as well. In Shinto, shrines enshrining gods correspond to altars, and household shrines would be a type of altar as well.

The offerings placed at altars vary by religion as well. In Christianity, the bread and wine consumed at the last supper are offered. In Buddhism, fresh flowers, water, and sweets are offered. In Shinto, sake, rice, and sakaki-tree branches are offered. Like the Central American civilizations that worshiped the sun, sometimes offerings of living sacrifices were made on altars.

Altars were used not only by various religions, but also in ceremonies praying for fertility. For example, at the 6,500-year-old ruins of a city discovered in Huna, China, altars thought to be used in a rice-growing ceremony as part of the rice production process were discovered.

PLACE THE HERO'S CORPSE AT THE UNDERGROUND ALTAR BENEATH THIS CITY AND CREATE A BRIDGE TO HEAVEN.
IT'S AN OLD MYTH PASSED DOWN IN THE DEMON MONARCH'S HEREDITARY MEMORY.

The Demon Queen mentioned an altar underneath Gateway City. What sorts of secrets are hidden there?

In this way, the form and offerings placed at altars vary by region and civilization, but they are all places for worshipers conducting a ritual to face the object of their faith.

Even in an age when most natural phenomena have been explained, people still retain their faith and respect for their ancestors. As long these remain, so will altars be a part of human life.

OLD MALICE

WHOOSH
WHO?!
WHO GOES THERE?
HEH HEH HEH
SLASH
SLASH
HA HA HA HA HA
CHUCKLE
...A MOUSE, HUH?
WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING, IT'S TOO LATE.
HISSS

MAOYU : Archenemy and Hero
"Become mine, Hero" "I refuse!"
Volume 16

KADOKAWA MANGA

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MAOYU MAOU YUUSHA
"KONO WARENO MONOTONARE, YUUSHAYO" "KOTOWARU!"

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